

Austria	Sch.22	Indonesia	Rp 3100	Portugal	Esc 100
Bahrain	Dir.6.00	Iceland	Rs 500	S. Arabia	Rs 6.50
Bulgaria	Lev.4.50	Japan	Yen 1600	Spain	Pes 125
Canada	C\$1.00	Jordan	Fls 500	Sri Lanka	Rp 200
Cyprus	C\$0.75	Korea	Fls 500	Sweden	Sk 8.00
Denmark	Dkr.9.00	Lithuania	Lt 748	Switzerland	Fr 10.00
Egypt	£1.00	Latvia	Lv 7.00	U.S.A.	De 6.50
Iceland	Fls.7.00	Luxembourg	Lfr.48	U.S.A.	De 6.00
France	FrF 2.20	Malaysia	Rm 425	U.S.A.	De 5.00
Germany	DM 2.20	Mexico	Pes 300	U.S.A.	De 5.00
Greece	Dr 1.00	Morocco	Dir 6.00	U.S.A.	De 5.00
Hong Kong	Hk\$1.00	Montenegro	Fls 1.00	U.S.A.	De 5.00
Iraq	Ru 15	Norway	Nkr 7.00	U.S.A.	De 5.00

# FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

No. 30,277

Monday July 6 1987

Pakistan: General Zia  
sidesteps blame  
for budget, Page 16

D 8523 A

## World News

## Business Summary

### Seoul riot provoked by death of student

Police in Seoul broke up the first student demonstration to be held in South Korea since President Chun Doo Hwan announced democratic reforms last week.

The authorities also sealed off a hospital where a student who had died from tear gas canister in a June demonstration had been kept alive by a respirator for almost a month.

The student's death provoked yesterday's demonstration by 2,000 of his fellow students, who were forced to retreat when police used tear gas.

### Pakistan bombs

Seven people died and at least 50 were injured when three bombs exploded in Lahore on the 10th anniversary of the coup that brought President Zia ul-Haq to power.

### Terry Waite claim

Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who was kidnapped in Beirut, was claimed in a Kuwaiti newspaper to have died of a heart attack in captivity. Page 2.

### Stockholm raid

Two masked gunmen raided a Stockholm high security barracks housing the regiment responsible for defending key government buildings and stole five machine guns and ammunition.

### Sri Lankan kidnap

Tamil guerrillas kidnapped a politician in Sri Lanka's peninsula while he was on a visit to canvass support for forthcoming by-elections.

### Ulster rioting

Ulster police in Portadown smashed barriers erected by protestant rioters on the first day of the marching season.

### Minister ill

New Zealand Defence Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister Frank O'Flynn is in a critical condition after being rushed to hospital where he underwent emergency heart surgery.

### Fatal jail fire

Four prisoners, two Italians, an Egyptian and a Tunisian, died in a fire at a cell at Milan's San Vittore prison.

### Black murdered

A black was murdered in a petrol bomb attack on a house in the township of Guguletu near Cape Town.

### Mubarak pay rise

Egyptian parliament approved a 100 per cent payrise for President Hosni Mubarak to the equivalent of \$17,000 at the official rate.

### Hollywood talks

Hollywood film and television directors met producers in a last minute attempt to avoid a strike over pay.

### Cash takes title

Pat Cash became the first Australian to win the Wimbledon men's singles title since 1971 when he beat Ivan Lendl 7-6, 6-2, 7-5.

### Mansell victory

Britain's Nigel Mansell in Williams won the French Grand Prix at Le Castellet, ahead of team-mate Nelson Piquet. World champion Alain Prost was third.

### ANC talks claim

Talks in Dakar this week between the African National Congress and 50 white and coloured Afrikaners are an ANC plot to foster disunity among South African whites, the Johannesburg newspaper, The Citizen, claimed. Page 4.

### Siemens expects drop in earnings

TOURNER at Siemens, the West German electronics group, rose by 12 per cent to DM 33bn (515bn) in the first eight months of the current business year ending on September 30. However, earnings for the year as a whole will be down last year's level, said Mr Koenigz Kasko, the chief executive. Page 20.

EUROPEAN Monetary System: The Danish krone was slightly weaker but remained the strongest member of the EMS last week. Trading was relatively stable, despite the US dollar's continued rise in its recent trading range for most of the time before edging firmer on Friday when trading was very thin because of the closure of US centres. Elsewhere the French central bank was sufficiently encouraged to announce a modest cut in short term intervention rates. The Belgian franc remained the weakest member but was virtually unchanged from the previous week at 38 per cent of its maximum divergence. On Friday the Belgian central bank announced a further small reduction in short term interest rates.

Stockholm raid: Two masked gunmen raided a Stockholm high security barracks housing the regiment responsible for defending key government buildings and stole five machine guns and ammunition.

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### Reagan schools expert has lesson for UK

BY LIONEL BARBER IN WASHINGTON

ITEM, now regarded as the key to survival and prosperity, has long been neglected in the older Western democracies.

During his two-day trip to London, which is part of a wider two-week European tour, Mr Bennett is scheduled to meet not just the Prime Minister but Mr Kenneth Baker, UK Education Secretary; Lord Young, UK Trade and Industry Secretary; and Professor Brian Griffiths, head of Mrs Thatcher's private policy unit at Downing Street.

Having scanned the Queen's Speech, Mr Bennett said he is well aware of the importance of education reform in the third term Thatcher Government. And he thinks it has a practical contribution to make. There is an obvious overlap between the US and UK education systems.

Mr Bennett has four main areas in mind: expansion of parental choice; higher standards

"parent power" could be a potent catalyst for change.

Mr Bennett says he would like to foster parental choice in public sector schools (88 per cent of all US schools), through the expansion of the federal voucher scheme. Many of the original vouchers were the brainchildren of President Johnson's "great society" in the 1960s. The US Government, alarmed at the high illiteracy and drop-out rate among the poor, especially blacks and ethnic minorities, offered federal aid to stop the rot. Twenty years and billions of dollars later, Mr Bennett has turned the liberals' programmes to his own and the Reagan Administration's end. By arguing that the extension of choice is more important than the provision of money per se, he has achieved an important shift in debate.

He has used the Department of Education - founded by a Democratic President, Jimmy Carter, as a redemption of a campaign promise - as a bully

Continued on Page 16



Mr William J. Bennett

### Saudi oil industry set for major shake-up under new minister

BY ANDREW GOWERS IN RIYADH



MR HISHAM NAZER, the recently appointed Saudi oil minister, has initiated a top management shake-up at Petromin, the national refining company, amid intense speculation about a possible radical restructuring of the entire Saudi oil industry.

The changes follow the abrupt dismissal late last year of Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Kingdom's long-time oil minister, and of Dr Abdul Hadi Taher, governor of Petromin.

According to diplomats and industry observers in Riyadh, moves under consideration include possible modifications in Petromin's role and in its relationship with Aramco, the non-communist world's largest oil production concern. Aramco's assets are owned by the Saudi Government and run in conjunction with four major US oil companies: Exxon, Texaco, Mobil and Chevron.

In a report to the Saudi Government last month, Arthur D. Little, the US management consulting firm, is believed to have suggested measures to streamline and cut the costs of Petromin's operations.

In the last 10 days, Mr Jamal Jawa, who had been Petromin's acting governor since the departure of Dr Taher, retired and was replaced by Mr Ali Ibrahim al-Rubaishi, a former deputy governor. However, his appointment is also said to be only on an interim basis, and speculation continues about the naming of a permanent successor to Dr Taher with a mandate to restructure the company later this year.

THE STOCKS: Share prices plunged for the second consecutive session on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Saturday. Fuelled by the yen's depreciation and a bond market decline, the Nikkei index fell 306.96 points to 24,158.52. World stock markets, Page 31.

FRANCE'S Finance Ministry is seeking new ways of managing the wave of demand for shares in the country's newly-privatised companies and of coping with the small and fragmented portfolios that the privatisation programme has created. Page 20.

ELKEM and Kvaerner, two of the most prestigious names in Norwegian industry, have announced a cross-shareholding partnership aimed at bringing an end to a bitter corporate battle.

EURORATINGS, the recently formed European rating agency, has placed the short-term paper rating of Norsk Hydro, the Norwegian petroleum and fertiliser group, under review because of the recent troubles of Kongsberg, the state-controlled defence and industrial concern.

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### US acting with Japan, Norway on export rules

BY STEWART FLEMING, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE US is working closely with Japan and Norway to try to help both countries tighten up their export controls on high-technology equipment which could be militarily sensitive, according to a top Reagan Administration official responsible for the regulation of high-technology exports.

The initiative is a direct response to the furor which has erupted on Capitol Hill as a result of revelations that Toshiba Machine of Japan and Kongsvinger Yaafabrik of Norway sold advanced numerically controlled machine tools to the Soviet Union. These were used to manufacture submarine propellers whose design significantly reduced the speed of Soviet submarines, making them much harder to detect and, the US says, diminishing a strategic advantage which the US had in underwater se

urity.

The disclosures have stirred a storm of anti-Japanese sentiment on Capitol Hill. The Senate last week approved an amendment to the omnibus Trade Bill which could block Toshiba from exporting to the US for between two and five years. Most worrying from the Reagan Administration's point of view is that the legislation significantly diminished the discretion of the President in deciding whether to apply sanctions against violations of export controls by foreign

Continued on Page 16

### Mexico's ruling party faces direct challenge

BY DAVID GARDNER IN MEXICO CITY

MR CUAHTEMOC Cardenas, leader of the dissident Democratic Current inside Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), has launched an open bid for the presidency to change hands next year.

Mr Cardenas' open defiance of PRI's closed shop, which has twice tried to expel him this year, represents the most serious challenge to the 70-year-old regime since his father, the revered General Lazaro Cardenas, stepped down as president in 1940, leaving a split regime.

The Democratic Current is challenging President Miguel de la Madrid's right to handpick his successor, who according to tradition will be announced in late September after an hermetic process of consultation among the vested

interests that support the regime.

Opposite of Mr de la Madrid's ministers, Planning Minister Carlos Salinas, Energy Minister Alfredo del Mazo, and Interior Minister Manuel Bartlett, are jockeying to succeed him but by rigid convention cannot formally campaign, much less run up their own political colours.

Mr Cardenas, 52 and like his

late father a former governor of the Pacific state of Michoacan, 'accepted' the nomination at a highly symbolic ceremony on Friday evening at which he denounced 'small groups in and outside the country who are deciding for all of us.'

Only the people in power can

Continued on Page 16

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## OVERSEAS NEWS

## Paris and Bonn pledge to strengthen ties

**FRENCH** Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, marking the 25th anniversary of post-war reconciliation, pledged yesterday to further boost ties to avoid future European conflict, Reuter reports from Reims.

The two leaders met to commemorate a 1962 mass in Reims cathedral attended by General Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer which symbolised the end of decades of hostility.

The Europe which we both desire rests largely on the close ties between France and Germany," said Mr Chirac after a solemn mass for peace in the 13th century cathedral.

"We both wish for the permanent reinforcement of the ties of determined brotherhood between us," he said.

The visit comes as memories of the brutality of the Nazi occupation of France have been rekindled by the trial of former Gestapo officer Mr Klaus Barbie, the so-called "butcher of Lyon".

But neither leader mentioned Mr Barbie, who was jailed for life for crimes against humanity - torturing or deporting hundreds of Jews and Resistance fighters during the 1941-44 occupations.

It was at Reims cathedral, where the kings of France were crowned

for centuries, that De Gaulle and Adenauer sought to open a new era in Franco-German relations by kneeling down together at the same mass.

Mr Kohl said the Franco-German reconciliation had erased the prospect of the two countries ever fighting again.

"The young generation has a great opportunity - they will never have war between France and Germany and can live as free citizens in Europe," he said at a ceremony in the Reims town hall.

"We must continue on this path," he said.

Reims, damaged in both world wars, has great symbolic importance to the French people as it was here that Hitler's forces surrendered in May 1945.

The two leaders then flew by helicopter to the village of Colombey les Deux Eglises to visit the tomb of General de Gaulle.

Mr Kohl and Mr Chirac, greeted by cheering crowds waving French and German flags, paid a brief call on a pancake restaurant bearing a banner saying in German "Step inside Chancellor and bring us luck."

De Gaulle's son, Admiral Philippe de Gaulle, accompanied the two heads of government during the visit.

Relations between Paris and Bonn are extremely close.

## Denmark opposed to EC summit on security

**DENMARK**, which currently holds the European Community presidency, is against an EC summit meeting to discuss European security, Mr Uffe Elleman-Jensen, its Foreign Minister, said yesterday, Reuter reports.

The idea was originally suggested by Mr Jacques Delors, Commission president.

Mr Elleman-Jensen, speaking in a radio interview broadcast in Bonn, said the Community was struggling to grapple with pressing budget and farming problems.

"We in Denmark are of the view that the EC is not the correct forum for defence and security policy. Therefore we

must turn down Mr Delors' proposal," he said.

Such matters should be left to Nato, the West European Union (WEU) and other bodies, he added.

Denmark took over the presidency of the 12-nation bloc this month.

The European Parliament begins a new session today with its teeth sharpened by an updating of the European Community (EC) founding treaty and awaiting approval of a stop-gap budget package.

The 318-member assembly could plunge the Community into a summer of uncertainty by blocking a vital package hammered out by Community ministers last week.

## Waite 'has died of heart attack'

By Nora Boustany in Beirut

A REPORT in a Kuwaiti newspaper yesterday that Mr Terry Waite, the Anglican church envoy, died of a heart in captivity several days ago, has mystified observers in Beirut concerned about the fate of foreign hostages in the absence of hard evidence.

The validity of such reports and "responsibility claims" slipped under the doors of news agency offices remains as elusive as the information they provide.

Al Anbar, a Kuwaiti daily newspaper, published a vaguely sourced item saying the 47-year-old emissary of the Archbishop of Canterbury "died of natural causes" in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley after a heart attack. The publication quoted a "well-trusted source close to political parties" for its disclosure.

Al Anbar's Beirut correspondent said his source had learned of Mr Waite's death by chance and explained that he had no real proof with



Mr Terry Waite fears for safety

which to substantiate it nor did he feel a commitment to do so. Usually well-informed Shiite security officials, well-versed in hostage affairs in Lebanon, expressed scepticism that Al Anbar's announcement was true.

• The Church of England said the report that Mr Waite had died in Lebanon was "distressing and possibly another unreliable story." A spokesman for Lambeth Palace said there was no way to confirm the accuracy of the Kuwaiti report.

Mr von Weizsaecker, who will be accompanied by Mr Hans-

Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister, says he sees his trip as "one link in a chain" to try to improve contacts between Bonn and Moscow. He is taking with him a squadron of leading West German economic, cultural and scientific figures, as well as a large number of journalists.

Media attention in West Germany will be intense. This reflects both Bonn's delicate position in the superpowers' disarmament talks and the continued detention in a Moscow jail of Mr Matthias Rust, the West German pilot who landed his light aircraft in Moscow in May. He faced trial over his infringement of Soviet air space so it is unlikely that Mr von Weizsaecker will be able to intercede for him.

The President is the focus of some sympathy in the Soviet Union, above all because of his speech, in May 1983, accepting

more as the organiser of the raid on the Jewish refugee at Izieu, which sent 44 children to their deaths in the concentration camps.

This shift in focus - coupled with the overwhelming testimony of the victims of Mr Barbie's torture, such as Mrs Lise Desvergne or Mrs Simone Legrain, who has herself been a victim of Mr Barbie's which divided the Nazi officer's accusers, unable to agree among themselves whether the genocide of Jews and gypsies should be set apart from the persecution of Hitler's opponents as a crime unique in its inhumanity.

The trial itself has at times seemed remote, a secret rite which will not be unveiled for 50 years, when the film of the proceedings will be released.

Yet the event has spread outside the courtroom, with the screening on television of the Shoah, the 8½-hour documentary about the holocaust, and the insertion to France's school history curriculum of lessons on the persecution of the Jews by the collaborationist Vichy government in France.

There has been also a substantial reassessment by leading French historians, such as Mr Fredrik Ulfkern or Mr Marc Ferro, of the role of Marshal Philippe Petain, leader of the Vichy regime, and of Pierre Laval, his prime minister.

The sour note came in the early hours of Saturday morning, just after the announcement of the verdict, when an angry crowd booted and jeered Mr Jacques Verges, the defence lawyer, who has become per-

sonal to many in the minds of many of his hearers on Friday when he pointed out differences between two copies of the telex, which had been used indiscriminately throughout the trial, but his argument was not accepted by the jury.

Even after these appeals, France has not heard the last of Mr Barbie. A second investigation would refuse to subside "uneconomically," production. It planned to reduce the number of administrators which would also lead to short-term unemployment in some regions and branches.

A communiqué issued at the weekend after a plenary session of the Central Committee said the investigation "would have to be restricted to provide the means to restructure industry. It noted that company independence is to be extended and the role of representative political bodies is to be strengthened."

Eastern Europe's first value-added tax will be introduced - probably by next January along with personal income taxes for employees of state companies.

## West German president begins Soviet visit today

By DAVID MARSH IN BONN

MR RICHARD von Weizsaecker, the West German President, sets off today for a challenging week-long official visit to the Soviet Union, designed to promote better understanding in the problematic relationship between the two countries.

Although the President tries to keep above day-to-day politics, the visit will play an important part in attempting to reconcile West German and Soviet positions on the negotiations over removing medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

Further subjects likely to dominate the trip - only the second visit to the Soviet Union by a West German head of state since the Bolshevik revolution - are human rights and the economic reform policies of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

The President is the focus of some sympathy in the Soviet Union, above all because of his speech, in May 1983, accepting

Germany's guilt for the crimes of the Nazis.

The President will arrive as political links between the two countries remain overshadowed by the Second World War. This was underlined by the fury in Moscow last year after Chancellor Helmut Kohl's clumsy indirect comparison of Mr Gorbachev with Joseph Goebbels.

At a news briefing last week Mr von Weizsaecker attempted to play down recent critical Soviet press comment, partly linked to the Rust incursion, as well as to the missile debate.

Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper, fiercely attacked Mr Kohl's "political blindness" over Soviet policies in an article last weekend. Other articles and other comments have condemned Bonn's insistence that West Germany main-

tain Pershing IA missiles, tipped with US nuclear warheads after the conclusion of the prospective US-Soviet medium-range missile deal.

Mr von Weizsaecker said that, during a time of gloom, Soviet newspaper articles should not always be taken as indicating the state of Soviet official opinion.

One West German diplomat, however, commented last week that the attacks seemed to be part of efforts to "soften up" the West German leader. Moscow was trying to "humble" the West Germans before the president's visit.

He will visit Leningrad, and Novosibirsk in Siberia, as well as Moscow, where he will hold talks with Mr Gorbachev and President Andrei Gromyko.

He left open last week the possibility of meeting dissidents, such as Mr Andrei Sakharov.

## Hungary unveils austerity measures

By LADIS COLEK in Berlin

THE Hungarian Communist Party under Mr Janos Kadar has unveiled a controversial two-stage programme of austerity measures and reforms designed to transform the ailing economy and to expand a socialist market conditions.

A four-year stabilisation programme is to "halt" and then reduce Hungary's rising net foreign debt. It is expected to reach \$3.5bn by the end of the year. A gaping budget deficit is to be eliminated as loss-making companies are to be deprived of subsidies. Temporary structural unemployment will result, the party acknowledged for the first time.

Mr Janos Barabas, assistant head of the party's information department, said the government would refuse to subsidise "uneconomic" production. It planned to reduce the number of administrators which would also lead to short-term unemployment in some regions and branches.

A communiqué issued at the weekend after a plenary session of the Central Committee said the investigation "would have to be restricted to provide the means to restructure industry. It noted that company independence is to be extended and the role of representative political bodies is to be strengthened."

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**FLORIDA**

## OVERSEAS NEWS

# 'Toshiba Affair' raises areas of broad concern

Peter Bruce in Tokyo examines reaction to 'Toshiba Affair'

POCKETS OF loud merriment broke out in Tokyo's more pleasant suburbs on Saturday night as thousands of Americans living in the city celebrated Independence Day.

Normally, the Japanese like fireworks and the Fourth of July as well but the local appetite for celebrating US festivals has been dulled in the past two weeks by what has become known in government and industrial circles here as 'The Cocoon Affair' or 'The Incident' but what everyone else who cares in the world is calling the Toshiba Affair.

Japanese were appalled last week to see television pictures of respectable US Congressmen smashing a Toshiba ghetto blaster with sledgehammers on the lawns of the White House.

This was soon followed by a Re-publican from Florida accusing Toshiba of "making it easier for Russians to kill Americans".

Revelations three months ago that a Toshiba subsidiary illegally sold machine tools to the Soviet Union that have since been used to build quieter submarines have stirred up an already dangerous, resentful climate between Tokyo and Washington.

In trying to respond to this sudden escalation of temper in the US, Japanese newspaper and commentators have found refuge for a while in a mixture of regret and counter-thrust.

"It cannot be denied that counter-measures (once the Soviet deal had become known) by the Japanese side were slow in coming", said the Mainichi Daily News yesterday, but "at the same time it is not desirable to let the US Congress act in whatever manner its feelings dictate and to have its 'Japan bashing' expand from the field of trade to security."

The respected Asahi Shimbun warned on Friday that "in connection with this confirmed 'Japan bashing' and the form it is taking (the Senate voted last week to bar Toshiba products from the US) we worry about the complex feelings that are growing in Japan."

## Israelis defer final decision on Lavi

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government, under intense pressure from the US to cancel the highly expensive Lavi combat aircraft, has, once again, deferred a final decision. But the indications are that the ruling Likud government—Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin—are still determined to press on with the project, provided a way can be found round its budgetary difficulties.

A decision had been expected to emerge from yesterday's specially extended Cabinet meeting, the first after Mr Rabin's return from talks with top US officials in Washington. But with the coalition government reported to be evenly divided across party lines, no consensus can be found.

It was the sixth Cabinet meeting in succession which had failed to break the deadlock. The next session is scheduled for next Sunday, but there was no optimism yesterday that a compromise which can bridge the conflicting viewpoints can be found meanwhile.

While Mr Shamir and Mr Peres, the two party chiefs, are understood to favour persisting

## Peres and Mubarak likely to meet this week

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN JERUSALEM

MR SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Foreign Minister and Labour Alignment leader, is expected to meet President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Geneva this week, in another effort to overcome final obstacles in the way of an international conference on the Middle East.

In the face of continuing opposition from Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, the two leaders, who last met in Cairo in February, are making a joint effort to convene such a conference this year, before the scheduled elections next year in both Israel and the US.

"What worries me is that, if nothing happens this year, we shall have to wait for another

## Belgrade wins debt delay

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YUGOSLAVIA has won an extension until September of the deadline for repayments of \$264m of debt principal to commercial banks after running into liquidity problems.

The extension was announced in Belgrade on Friday night after talks between Yugoslav officials and Mr Fulvio Dobrich, an executive of Mannesmann of Hanover. The US bank, which headed banks' negotiations with the country,

Yugoslavia has said its intention to make the repayments due on June 30 and July 20 is due to temporary

### LDP BREAKAWAY

## Takeshita launches platform

BY PETER BRUCE IN TOKYO

MR NOBURO TAKESHITA, secretary-general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, ended 15 years of party domination by the so-called Tanaka Faction this weekend by breaking away and taking 113 of the Tanaka group's 141 members with him.

Mr Takeshita has formed his own faction and plans to use it as a platform from which to launch his bid to replace Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone as party president and, hence, Prime Minister, in October.

The 63-year-old former Finance Minister led the breakaway after failing to persuade a rival in the Tanaka Faction, Mr Susumu Nikaido, to withdraw a premature bid for the party leadership. Mr Shintaro Abe, a former Foreign Minister, has criticised Mr Takeshita for being a ditherer and says he is the backing of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, after whom the faction is named.

Factions in the LDP revolve around personalities more than what they do about policies. Mr Tanaka, disgraced because of his part in the Lockheed bribery scandal and now virtually bedridden because of a stroke, had Mr Takeshita turned away from the gates of his home earlier this year. The fact that Mr Nikaido, as Mr Tanaka's mouthpiece, could only hold on to 15 Diet members at the weekend is a wither-

ing comment on his (and his mentor's) remaining political clout.

The faction actually split into three — 13 neutrals, thought more likely to vote for Takeshita in the presidential poll but too close to Mr Tanaka or Mr Nikaido to say so outright — have formed an independent group.

Mr Nikaido's chances are not good. Because there will be at least four candidates, party rules say he must be supported by 50 members from both houses of the Diet.

With his 133 supporters Mr Takeshita, on the other hand, is thought increasingly likely to seek an accommodation with the faction led by another presidential contender, Mr Shintaro Abe, a former Foreign Minister. The Abe faction has 85 members, which would bring a total of 218. The two just 29 votes short of a majority of the LDP's 444 MPs.

Speculation in Tokyo now is that Mr Takeshita and Mr Abe, who apparently do not well personally, might agree to share the Prime Ministry. They could get their remaining votes from one or more neutral factions not putting a member up for the party presidency.

That could include the 57-

member Nakasone faction.

Mr Nakasone cannot, under party rules, stand again but may be

able to act as a "king-maker"

and so devolve some power on



Noboru Takeshita: aiming to replace Nakasone

to his faction after he steps down.

Mr Nakasone, however, makes little secret of the fact that he would like to go on being Prime Minister. His own hope is that the four candidates — including Mr Kichiro Miyazawa, the Finance Minister, who has yet to make a formal announcement — will be unable to negotiate a new leadership and that he would then be called on by the party to stay where he is.

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## S Korean demonstrations flare again after death of student

BY MAGGIE FORD IN SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA yesterday saw its first student demonstration since President Chun Doo Hwan announced democratic reforms last week.

The demonstration followed the death of a student who had been hit by a tear gas canister at the beginning of demonstrations last month.

Police sealed off the hospital where the student had been kept alive by a respirator for almost a month. About 2,000 of his fellow students, who attempted to march out of the adjacent university, were beaten back by police with tear gas.

Mr Kim Young Sam and Mr Kim Dae Jung, the country's two main opposition leaders, visited the mortuary to offer condolences. Voicing their scepticism about the Government's good faith in announcing moves towards democracy, the two Kims said they could not begin negotiations with the ruling Democratic Justice Party until it had fulfilled its promise named.

Mr Roh Tae Woo, leader of the DJP, who first made the radical democratic proposals last Monday, was attacked on Saturday by families of those in jail. After a meeting with Mr Roh, who failed to reassure

the families, scuffles broke out at party headquarters.

Protesters also disrupted the final day of the trial of five policemen found guilty of torturing to death a student in January. Two senior officers were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and three others to terms of between five and eight years. Family and friends of the victim shouted at the judge that the sentences were

so as not to put the democratic moves at risk, but also urged the authorities to advance quickly. The Government said it plans to start to release political detainees today, but arguments over the numbers are continuing.

Justice Department officials say they are looking at the cases of about 1,000 people, but opposition leaders claim about 3,000 are wrongfully imprisoned.

Mr Roh met Mr Kim Dae Jung for the first time on Saturday, at a US embassy celebration of Independence Day. The resignation of Mr Kim's civil rights lawyer, specifically mentioned in Mr Roh's speech, but not in the announcement later by President Chun.

Mr Kim is due to give his first public speech for seven years, at the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club tomorrow.

At their weekend meeting, the two Kims asked the Government to consider the idea of forming a neutral Cabinet to

include opposition, church, academic and other leaders to ensure the fairness of the presidential election this year, and to supervise the movement towards other democratic reforms.

Newspaper editorials yesterday urged the public to show restraint over emotional issues

too lenient and threw furniture at the defendants.

The torture of the student has provoked two Cabinet reshuffles this year. The second followed a resolution by a Catholic priest that the police investigation into the incident had been covered up. He has said he will reveal the full facts of the incident after the trial.

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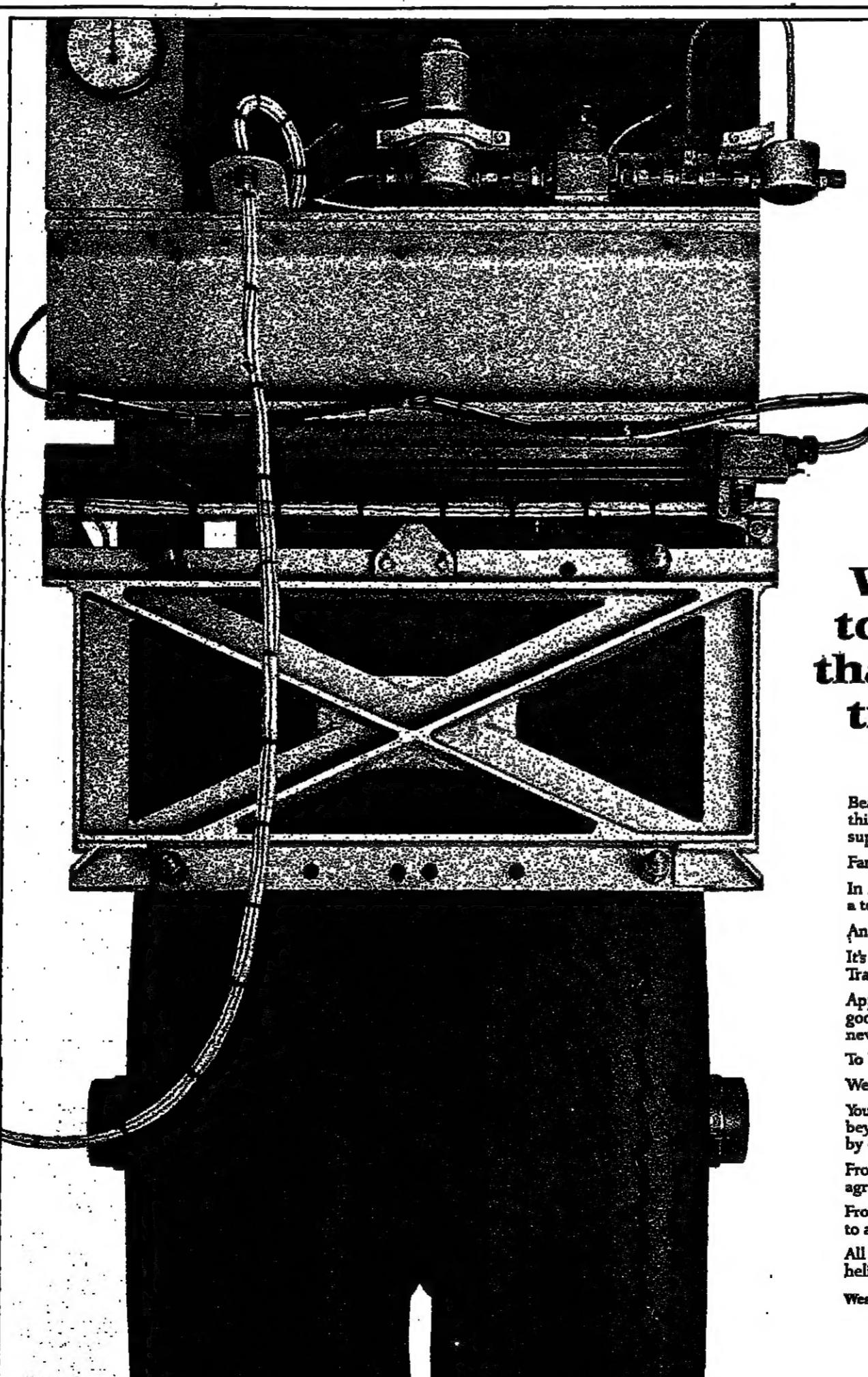
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## OVERSEAS NEWS

## Dakar talks on South Africa 'an ANC plot'

By JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

TALKS IN Dakar this week generally drawn from the between the African National Congress and about 50 white and coloured Afrikaners have been supported by The Citizen, an English-language newspaper which supports the South African government, as an ANC plot to foster disunity among white South Africans.

On Saturday The Citizen quoted an unnamed London informant as saying the Dakar meeting was first requested by the ANC. The newspaper quoted from what it described as an ANC policy document which allegedly stressed the need to "control" white liberals.

The government has itself made no further comment on the Dakar talks organised by the Institute for Democratic Alternative for South Africa. Mass will officially name the participants only when they have left South Africa, for fear the government will revoke their passports.

According to local newspapers Mr Breiten Breytenbach, the exiled South African poet, and Mr Johan Rupert, the heir to the Rembrandt tobacco and liquor conglomerate, were closely involved in arranging the Dakar meeting. Mr Rupert helped finance and manage the campaigns of three independent candidates in South Africa's recent white election.

Other white and coloured participants, whose names have been unofficially disclosed, are

## Brazilian domestic car sales plummet

Reports quoting Mr Archie Gumedza, the co-President of the United Democratic Front, saying that the UDF, South Africa's largest anti-apartheid group, might consider participating in the country's 1989 general election were played down at the weekend. The UDF spokesmen said that participation would indicate a fundamental shift in the strategy of the organisation, which was founded in opposition to South Africa's racially separate tri-cameral parliamentary system and the idea of fighting apartheid from within the system.

Mr Gumedza clarified his position, saying that the UDF might discuss the idea, it should only be construed as part of a continuing dialogue.

Chief Minister Butholezi, the Zulu leader, told a annual meeting of his Inkatha movement in Ujundi on Saturday that low-level talks had been held with the UDF aimed at ending conflict between the two groups. Chief Buthelezi rejected the central government's plans to establish Regional Services Councils as another tier of government unless the councils were mandated to work for a new constitution. He added that the RSCs had been "rammed down our throats" without consultation and called for black unity.

The one bright spot for the industry was that exports, which were worth \$1.68bn last year. In the first half of 1987, exports reached a value of \$1.16bn. The industry's target for the full year is \$2.2bn.

Brazil exported 157,273 vehicles in the first half of this year — 68 per cent more than during the equivalent period last year.

The conservative shift in Chinese politics has also contributed to the

## Robert Thomson in Peking reports on an exodus south of Chinese students

## Australia becomes 'heaven's garden'

WHEN Mr Gordon F. Munn, the Director of Studies at the Western Australian Institute of Applied Linguistics, rose recently at Peking's Great Wall Hotel, he had to placate an angry hotel manager and several hundred Chinese eager to join the rush to study in Australia.

Mr Munn had placed an advertisement in a Chinese newspaper asking those interested in English language courses to contact him at the hotel. As one hotel employee explained: "I only wish all the people who rang were booking rooms."

The remarkable education excess to Australia follows an easing of that country's entry restrictions in an attempt to develop education as an export industry, and a tightening of restrictions for Chinese by many other countries for fear that many students have no intention of returning to China.

Soaring price inflation and high taxes on car sales have drastically cut demand. The car industry sent 26,000 workers on leave last week.

Autolatina, the biggest manufacturer in Brazil, laid off 4,000 workers last month.

Anfavea's figures showed the workforce in the car industry had shrunk to 147,797 in June, from 154,281 in May.

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Brazil exported 157,273 vehicles in the first half of this year — 68 per cent more than during the equivalent period last year.

The conservative shift in Chinese politics has also contributed to the

stampede, as have unfounded rumours that Australia intends to declare an amnesty next year for illegal immigrants as part of its bicentennial celebrations. Whatever the reasons, hundreds of students from around the country gather at the Australian embassy here each morning, and Mr Munn estimates that his institute alone gets 150 letters a day.

Last year, 1,043 Chinese were granted visas to study in Australia, 157 of them government sponsored.

This year visas issued have risen by almost 300 per cent, and it is understood that about 8,000 Chinese have successfully applied to Australian institutions for courses in the coming year. Last year, one embassy secretary processed study visas — now the section has a staff of five.

In Shanghai, tourists have been selling information about courses at private colleges and state institutions, and agencies in Hong Kong

have been overcharging Chinese applicants by as much as 200 per cent for study packages that they could easily arrange themselves.

About 60 per cent of applicants this year have been enrolling in three-month language courses, and it is clear that many see study as a passport out of China.

To counter that problem, the Australian Government this week set six months as the minimum for a course, and now requires prospective students to produce \$A100 for each week they intend to live in Australia.

The latter requirement follows evidence that students were arriving in Australia with little money in their pockets and unreal expectations of getting a job immediately.

One Chinese who has visited Australia said that his comrades think the country is "heaven's garden", but find that it's not so easy after arriving.

Yet even with the new restrictions, Australia is still by far the most accessible of the choice Western destinations. The only condition is money, whereas the US, for example, requires the taking of an English test, a financial sponsor, and hard evidence, such as a spouse left behind, that the student will return.

Mr Munn said that in a sweep through China this week he has interviewed 3,500 people, and many hundreds more were waiting for him in Peking.

Most were in their mid-20s and well-educated, but seemingly unaware of the realities of life in the West: "Some of them think that if you merely work an hour a week you will become a millionaire."

Dr Ross Gurnett, the Australian Ambassador to China, sought to debunk a few myths at a press conference for Chinese journalists this week. He warned that students overstaying visas will be deported.

Relatives overseas are obviously a help. A 26-year-old man from Guangzhou in the south, said he had earned several thousand dollars working as a private electrician and borrowed the rest from friends in Hong Kong. A 25-year-old Shanghai man said he hoped to support himself by working as a tennis professional.

## Student violence shatters Venezuela's tranquility

VIOLENT student demonstrations this week in Venezuela, in which two students died and at least 73 people wounded have disturbed the tranquility of this normally peaceful country, Reuter reports from Caracas.

Political violence is rare in Venezuela, whose citizens enjoy the highest living standards in South America and live in its most stable democracy.

Among the most startling reports was news of snipers shooting police at Caracas' central university and police firing at students from a helicopter.

"This chain of violent demonstrations has really preoccupied the country and of course the government. The situation for us is worrisome," said Interior Minister Jose Angel Ciliberto.

The students were protesting against the failure of President Jaime Lusinchi's social democratic Government to curb record inflation, as well as repression of demonstrators.

"Venezuela is no exception in this of violence and youthful and popular protests," he wrote. "Social struggles are becoming violent in this time of crisis."

To student leaders, the roots of the unrest lie in accelerating inflation and stepped-up repression by the police and military.

Inflation is believed by economists to be heading towards 40 per cent or beyond this year, nearly quadrupling last year's 12.7 per cent.

The government says there is a price freeze but nothing costs the same as it did two months ago," one student leaflet said.

The World Bank recently put Venezuela's per capita annual income at \$3,410, ahead of Portugal and Yugoslavia and close to that of Greece.

But the source of Venezuela's long-time wealth, oil, is also the cause of accelerating inflation.

The inflation mainly stems from devaluations in the bolivar, the national currency, imposed after a slump in oil prices.

The most politically sensitive price rises were but fare increases of up to 100 per cent last April. Student protests erupted in Caracas and two provincial cities, wounding at least 58 people.

Fresh unrest was stirred when students pressed for the freedom of 17 youths jailed last May for protesting against bus fare increases in Caracas, an eastern city.

In June, 45 students went on a hunger strike to demand their freedom, and already this month two students have died in demonstrations.

The death of one student in the Andean city of Trujillo, touched off a rampage of students in seven cities, in which at least 17 police and 50 students were hurt.

Students blamed police for the deaths and President Lusinchi said the prosecutors were investigating.

## Saudis warn on demonstrations during Haj

BY ANDREW GOWERS IN RIYADH

SAUDI ARABIA issued a stern warning at the weekend against "demonstrations and clamorous processions" during the annual pilgrimage season, or Haj, which begins at the end of this month.

The statement, published by the Saudi Press Agency, is said to be more specific than in previous years and reflects Saudi anxiety about the activities of pilgrims from Iran.

It follows an unusually harshly worded speech by King Fahd last week, in which he attacked "hypocrites" who are using religion to destabilise Arab and Islamic countries either because of sheer ignorance of the tenets of Islam or ill will.

This weekend's statement referred to meetings and

seminars in some Islamic capitals in recent weeks which have discussed "issues pertaining to the Islamic antiquities" (presumably an allusion to the Moslem holy places in Mecca and Medina) and called for the lifting of alleged curbs on pilgrims' freedom of movement within the kingdom.

"If the hidden reason behind these demands is to start demonstrations and to change known 'mognas' that would create disorder and threaten the security of Hajj pilgrims . . . all Moslems agree that such acts are not Islamic and cannot be allowed," it added.

In the face of criticism from Iranian militants in Iran and elsewhere, the Saudi authorities referred to meetings and

local polls.

Mrs Bandaranaike asked how the Government could reconcile its plan to hold parliamentary by-elections in the strife-torn Tamil north and east, and local polls in the Sinhalese south, with President Jayewardene's recent statement that no elections can be held until "terrorism is wiped out". Mr Jayewardene had also said she added, that a referendum may be held instead of the general election which it was postponed for six years in 1982 after a highly controversial referendum.

Meanwhile, TULF, the main

Iran 'deploys missiles in Gulf'

IRAN HAS begun to place Chinese-made anti-ship missiles on launchers at the strategic Strait of Hormuz, according to unconfirmed reports. AP-Dow Jones reports from Manama.

The missiles reportedly were test-fired in the area in February, but Gulf-based salvage executives said some were placed on launchers on Friday, making them fully operational against shipping.

US officials said that according to information available, the missiles were "not operationally deployed."

The salvage executives said the launchers were at the port of Bandar Abbas, overlooking the vital strait, and possibly on nearby Qeshm Island, which belongs to Iran.

• A 12-member delegation of the US House of Representatives arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday on the fourth leg of a Gulf tour.

**Haiti crisis deepens**

Haiti's political crisis deepened yesterday after the electoral council supervising the country's return to democracy accused the army of murdering innocent women and children. AP reports from Port-au-Prince.

The accusations came amid general strikes in the island nation calling for the resignation of the three-man council.

The armed forces said there was "an atmosphere of anarchy and violence" in Haiti, and said terrorists in press cars and others in olive green uniforms were firing on civilians and soldiers.

According to unofficial estimates, soldiers have killed at least 20 people, including a nine-month-old baby, during a four-day strike this week and wounded scores more.

**African summit**

A major economic recovery programme and proposals for a substantial injection of fresh capital are expected to dominate a summit this week of the Economic Community of West African States, Reuter reports from Abuja.

The three-day summit, beginning on Tuesday, will discuss measures aimed at helping the region recover from economic problems precipitated by a collapse in the price of export commodities.

The draft economic recovery programme, comprises 136 projects for implementation over the next three years, according to Mr Kalu Kalu, Nigeria's Planning Minister, the current chairman of the ECOWAS council of ministers.

The programme was approved in principle during an ECOWAS ministerial meeting in Abuja last November.

## Bandaranaike in challenge to Jayewardene

BY MERVYN DE SILVA IN COLOMBO

SRI LANKA'S former Prime Minister, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, yesterday challenged President Jayewardene to face her at a presidential contest if the government was not ready to accept the demand of six-party opposition alliance for a general election.

Accusing the President of being "frightened" by such a contest, she said that the government had "panicked" in the face of the opposition demand to launch an island-wide campaign for an election and mobilise international opinion in its support. She had already written to the leaders of the

Western democracies and had received several responsive replies.

In an interview published yesterday, Mrs Bandaranaike was asked whether she and fellow-campaign leaders would "court arrest". "We will not court arrest but if it becomes necessary, we are ready," she said.

Neither the people nor the opposition was scared of a government that showed growing signs of disunity, she added, pointing to the recent resignations of a cabinet minister over nominations for forthcoming

local polls.

Mrs Bandaranaike asked how the Government could reconcile its plan to hold parliamentary by-elections in the strife-torn Tamil north and east, and local polls in the Sinhalese south, with President Jayewardene's recent statement that no elections can be held until "terrorism is wiped out". Mr Jayewardene had also said she added, that a referendum may be held instead of the general election which it was postponed for six years in 1982 after a highly controversial referendum.

Even more significant, the October futures price, which stood at 995 at the beginning of June and plummeted to a low of 862 last Monday, recovered by nearly 120 points during last week to close at

981 on Friday.

In the tanker market, brokers said business was brisk in the Middle East and rate levels appeared to be improving, but market sentiment was difficult to judge because details of many fixtures were being kept confidential.

—

**Philippines violence**

Twenty-five people died in an upsurge of violence in the Philippines over the weekend, and a series of explosions hit Manila. Reuter reports from Manila.

The deaths came in clashes between government troops and Communist rebels in several provinces, including an encounter near the US Clark Air Base north of Manila.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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June, 1987

## WORLD ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION  
(1980=100)

	May '87	April '87	March '87	May '86	% change over previous year
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## BHP Preliminary Profit Report – 1987

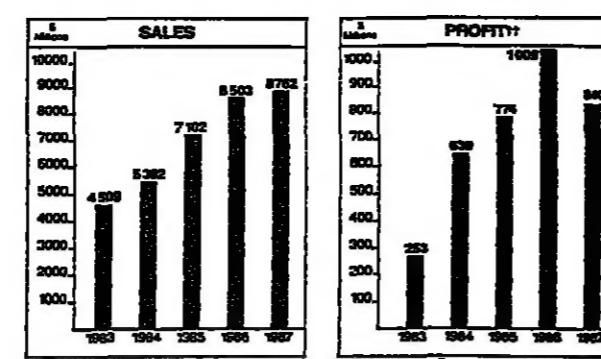
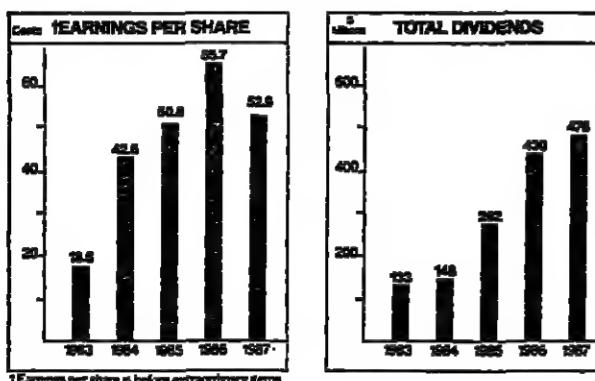
BHP, Australia's international resources enterprise, has completed another strong year against a background of depressed conditions in international resource markets.

For the year ended May, 1987, BHP achieved sales of A\$8.8 billion and earnings of A\$840\* million, the second highest profit on record, contributing to a five year growth of 39%.

**RECORD DIVIDEND PAYOUT**  
For BHP shareholders, total dividend payout of \$476 million for the year was 11% on the previous year – another record.

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**ON-GOING EXPLORATION**  
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BHP is committed to growth as a competitive resource enterprise and in May, 1987, listed on the New York Stock Exchange, as another step to widening and deepening its shareholder base internationally.

**..BHP continues to be highly profitable even in a depressed world natural resource climate..**

*Robert A. Hageman, Kidder, Peabody & Co. Report, March 1987*

### STRATEGIC LOCATIONS

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### FUTURE PROSPECTS

Robert Hageman of Kidder, Peabody, in his report of 20 March, 1987, said "...(BHP) is one of the best positioned global natural resource enterprises... the Company is a giant by any measurable standard."

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All figures quoted are in Australian dollars. Earnings per share relates to ordinary shares only.

### LONG TERM PLANNING

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Alan Wrench  
Managing Director

## UK NEWS

### Thatcher to act over lack of Scottish support

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE GOVERNMENT's political problems in Scotland will soon have to be discussed by the full Cabinet, Mrs Margaret Thatcher has told senior colleagues.

There is an increasing recognition among senior ministers that the Government will have to respond in some way to the political position in Scotland where the Tories lost 11 seats in last month's general election and now have only 10 out of 72 MPs.

Mrs Thatcher and most ministers remain firmly opposed to any form of devolution or Scottish Assembly which involves tax-raising powers. However, her decision to signal that the matter must be fully discussed by the Cabinet reflects a wider ministerial view that the Government

Secretary, the Scottish

Secretary, who was sympathetic to devolution in the debates of the 1970s, has adopted a "wait and see" attitude before pushing for any initiative.

A pressing issue is what do about the various committees in the

House of Commons affecting Scotland, since the Tories only have five backbenchers from north of the border. Business managers are reluctant to concede an opposition majority on the select committee since this would give Labour the initiative in investigations.

Scotland is one among a number

of tricky political problems facing

the Government in the two-and-a-half weeks to the start of the long parliamentary summer recess. Others

include MP's pay and the re-

placement of domestic rates by a

universal community charge, where

there is undercutting of Conserva-

tive backbench mea-

sure and revolt

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Environment

Secretary, and Mr Michael Howard, Local Government Minister, will

testify to Tory MP's tonight to discuss

the issue.

The Government has also faced

the embarrassment of well-publicised attacks from former minis-

ters, including Mr Edward Heath,

Mr Michael Heseltine and Mr John

Biffen, the sacked Leader of the

Commons.

Mr Biffen distanced himself further from Mrs Thatcher in an interview in yesterday's Sunday Telegraph newspaper where he said he was "not in the business of making life easier for her." But he rejected the role of perpetual rebel.

Saying he wanted to be a power broker in the choice of a successor to Mrs Thatcher, Mr Biffen noted his powerful instinct that "it is far better for the most successful leaders to call it a day five minutes too soon than to linger beyond their welcome."

He also defined his "common interest," although definitely not formal alliance or cabal with Mr Heseltine, in bringing about a greater pluralism within the Tory Party, so that we don't have a sort of Stalinist regime any longer."

Mr Biffen, who expressed sup-

port for many aspects of govern-

ment policy, reiterated his doubts

about many aspects of the EC in its

present form. He has joined the Eu-

ropean Reform Group, an organiza-

tion of Tory backbenchers run by

Mr Teddy Taylor.

**Labour 'needs to rethink policies'**

By Our Political Editor

THE LABOUR PARTY needs to re-think some of its economic policies and its approach to public ownership, Mr Bryan Gould, the party's campaign co-ordinator, argued yes-

terday. His remarks, in a radio interview, come as the internal Labour debate intensifies about how to win the next general election having lost three in a row. The leadership has commissioned polling evidence on why the party did well in Scotland and Wales, but failed again in much of England, especially the south.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the party lead-

er, is hoping for an injection of new talent into Labour's Shadow Cabinet in Wednesday's elections. There are already two vacancies and the signs are that centre-left candidates from the Tribune Group may make gains.

A major reshuffle is anyway like-

ly with speculation that Mr John

Smith will become economics

spokesman, in place of Mr Roy Hartley, who may take over as home

affairs spokesman. Mr Gerald Kaufman is tipped to become foreign affairs spokesman, succeeding

Mr Denis Healey, who is not seek-

ing re-election.

Mr Gould argued, both in his in-

terview and in a speech on Satu-

day to a conference of the Labour

Co-ordinating Committee, the main

stream left body, that the party

needed to develop its own radical

polices for the year 2000, rather

than be seen as "defending a tired

old status quo against radical

changes proposed by the Tories."

In particular, Mr Gould cited

some aspects of economic policy

and Labour's approach to social

ownership and privatisation. Labour, he said, had not yet thought

through which policies were true to

socialist values and which would

appeal to supporters.

He argued that what was needed

were policies which appealed to out-

siders, and not those which just

commended themselves to internal

committees and experts and could

not be sold to the electorate.

In common with virtually all the

Shadow Cabinet, Mr Gould argued

that Labour could only look to itself

for salvation and said talk of elec-

toral pacts, re-alignments and pro-

portional representation was both

"self-deluding and self-defeating."

BY HAZEL DUFFY

FUNDAMENTAL re-thinking of the Government's approach towards its policy for the regions is likely to emerge from a policy review which is to be initiated by Lord Young, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

The review will reveal numerous contradictions which have been arising in the development of government policy on the inner cities and its separate policy on the regions.

But it also stems from the suspicion that has been growing in some ministers' minds that regional grants to industry are not an effective way of closing the economic gap between different parts of the country. That suspicion has been strengthened by the arrival of Lord Young to head the department which administers regional policy.

Also, the Treasury is concerned that the department's expenditure on grants, although lower than in the early 1980s, is not falling fast enough. The allocation for the current financial year is £376m.

### Miners split on six-day working

By Charles Leadbeater

THE NATIONAL Union of Miners may be deeply divided over its policy towards British Coal's plans to introduce flexible shift patterns to allow six-day production.

The NUM annual conference which starts today at Rothbury in Scotland, is almost certain to back Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, in his opposition to six-day production, despite the 10 votes to 10 split on the union's executive on Saturday.

But few NUM leaders believe the conference vote, or even a subsequent national membership ballot, will settle the flexible working issue, as several NUM areas will come under increasing pressure to agree the changes to win major investments and safeguard jobs.

Pre-conference delegation meetings yesterday confirmed that the conference will support a motion which calls on the union to reject attempts to introduce longer daily shifts or six-day production.

The conference, which has a voting strength of 111, seems likely to pass the motion by a majority of at least 10. Some union activists believe the majority could be as high as 40.

The South Wales NUM, which

has agreed to the concept of six-day

production for the £30m driftmine

the corporation plan to develop at Margam, will lead the opposition to

the motion.

Introduction of flexible shifts would require amendments to the 1986 hours of Work Act and the industry's 40-years-old five-day work agreement which regulates working time in pits.

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Labour  
needs to  
rethink  
policies



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**THE OFFER WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 13, 1987.**

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The most substantial asset of CSWI is its \$9,352,000 loan to BancTEXAS. Inasmuch as BancTEXAS currently has a deficit in its stockholders' equity of almost \$100,000,000, it is unlikely that CSWI would be able to realize any substantial amount in respect of such loan in the event of a bankruptcy filing.

The Offer and the related Proxy Statement/Prospectus contain important information which should be reviewed carefully. Copies have been sent to all known holders of the CSWI Debentures. If you have not yet received these materials or require additional copies, please contact the Information Agent immediately at the phone number listed below.

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## UK NEWS

# Merchant bank to regain independence

BY DAVID LASCELLES, BANKING EDITOR

SINGER & FRIEDLANDER, the small UK merchant bank which has had three owners in the past 10 years, is to regain its independence through a £15m deal with Mr Nigel Wray, the property entrepreneur.

Singer is to be sold by its present owner, Britannia Arrow Holdings, the unit trust and fund management group, to Gilbert House Investments, a listed company acquired by Mr Wray last year.

However, Singer will control the merged group after the deal. Mr Anthony Solomons, the bank's chairman and chief executive, will become chairman with Mr Wray as deputy. The company will change its name to Singer & Friedlander Group.

Britannia Arrow owns 91.8 per cent of Singer, with the rest in the hands of the bank's senior management. Under the terms of the deal, Gilbert House is offering cash with

a limited element of ordinary shares and convertible loan stock as an alternative.

The change in ownership has been approved by the Bank of England. It is not expected to affect Singer's membership of the Accepting Houses Committee, the trade group of the City of London's leading merchant banks.

Singer is one of the smallest of the City's accepting houses. Last year its pre-tax profits after transfer to inner reserves were £12m, and net tangible assets were £110m, not including a £3m contingent tax liability.

Mr Solomons said yesterday that the deal would give Singer its independence and enable it to expand by issuing its own paper. The group would concentrate on three business areas, banking, property and commercial-industrial interests. The transaction is splendid for our

## Overseas companies 'shed UK jobs faster'

By Michael Prowse

FOREIGN-OWNED multinationals have cut their UK workforce faster than elsewhere, according to a study published today by the Labour Research Department, an independent trade union and labour movement research organisation.

It says the 30 largest multinationals with UK operations cut their employment in the UK from 419,000 in 1976 to 303,000 in 1986, a fall of 27.8 per cent.

The job losses at the multinationals were in line with falling employment in UK manufacturing: the top 40 British manufacturers cut their employment by 25.5 per cent over the same period.

However, the share of UK employment in the worldwide employment of the multinationals fell from 8.1 per cent to 6.8 per cent, reflecting the faster relative loss of jobs in the UK.

At Ford, for example, the UK share of worldwide employment fell from 13.2 per cent to 12.3 per cent; at Philips, the Dutch electronics group, it fell from 1 in 10 to 1 in 16; and at Peugeot, the French motor manufacturer, it fell from 1 in 11 to 1 in 30.

US multinationals, although still the largest employers of UK workers among foreign companies, are becoming a relatively less important source of jobs, according to the report. But the proportion of jobs supplied by Japanese, West German and Swedish companies is rising.

The study concedes important exceptions to the overall trend. Nissan, the Japanese motor company, for example, should have doubled its UK workforce to 1,100 by the end of the year, while the UK acquisition of Electrolux of Sweden will boost its UK employment by 6,000.

## Short's may keep factories shut over Loyalist flags row

BY OUR BELFAST CORRESPONDENT

SHORT BROTHERS, the state-owned Belfast aerospace company, looks set to keep production at a virtual standstill this week because of the row over Loyalist flags in its factories, in spite of a call from the trade unions for workers to be allowed back.

Mr Peter Viggers, the Northern Ireland Industry Minister, gave the Government's backing at the weekend to the managements of Ulster companies who have taken a stand against the erection of the flags and emblems commemorating the Protestant victory at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

He said the Government's policy of equal opportunity in employment could not be put in jeopardy and the Government therefore supported all actions designed to ensure that workplaces were free from displays which might give offence.

On Friday, Short, Ulster's largest manufacturer with 7,000 employees, carried out its threat to shut down production following two days of what it said was "widespread intimidation" on picket lines.

The company has been struggling to regain profitability but is now losing millions of pounds worth of production and could face penalties

for late delivery. Although office staff are turning up, it has stopped work on commercial aircraft, aircraft components and missiles. Only production of the Tucano basic training aircraft for the RAF is unaffected.

Sir Philip Foreman, chairman and managing director, said in a television interview: "We will keep the factories closed until we have a neutral atmosphere, even if it takes months. Our major market (the US) looks on us to operate factories in which there is not intimidation. I am not prepared to operate a factory where the world can say we intimidate a minority or anyone else."

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## Hot water to heat town

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

SOUTHAMPTON will become the first city in Britain to be heated by hot water pumped from thousands of feet beneath the earth.

A group of city-centre buildings, including the town hall, will be supplied with the heat by a UK subsidiary of a French company which runs similar schemes in Europe.

After seven years of research the

scheme was agreed yesterday when Southampton City Council signed agreements with Udicom, part of the Idex group of France.

Southampton, on the south coast of England, turned to a private partner after the Department of Energy, which had helped to sink the first boreholes, pulled out of the scheme about two years ago.



## LAST YEAR HE GOT AWAY WITH £29 MILLION. WHAT WILL IT BE NEXT YEAR?

If you're a retailer, you already know that cheque card fraud is a serious business. But did you know how serious?

Last year over 700,000 fraudulent transactions added up to £29 million.

That's why the cheque card issuers have funded a major publicity campaign to impress on your sales and check-out staff how vitally important it is to go

through the correct checking procedures. The poster above is just part of it.

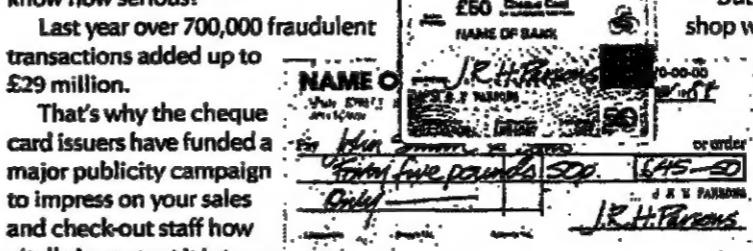
But it's going to be wasted in the shop where the management doesn't share our attitude, simply assuming someone else will pay.

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## CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

### Modernising Whitehall offices

The old War Office building in Whitehall is about to undergo a major £12.5m internal modernisation programme. Balfour Beatty, acting as consultant architect to the Property Services Agency, have been responsible for the design and detailing of the scheme in close consultation with the Ministry of Defence who will take the building when the works have been completed in the autumn of 1988.

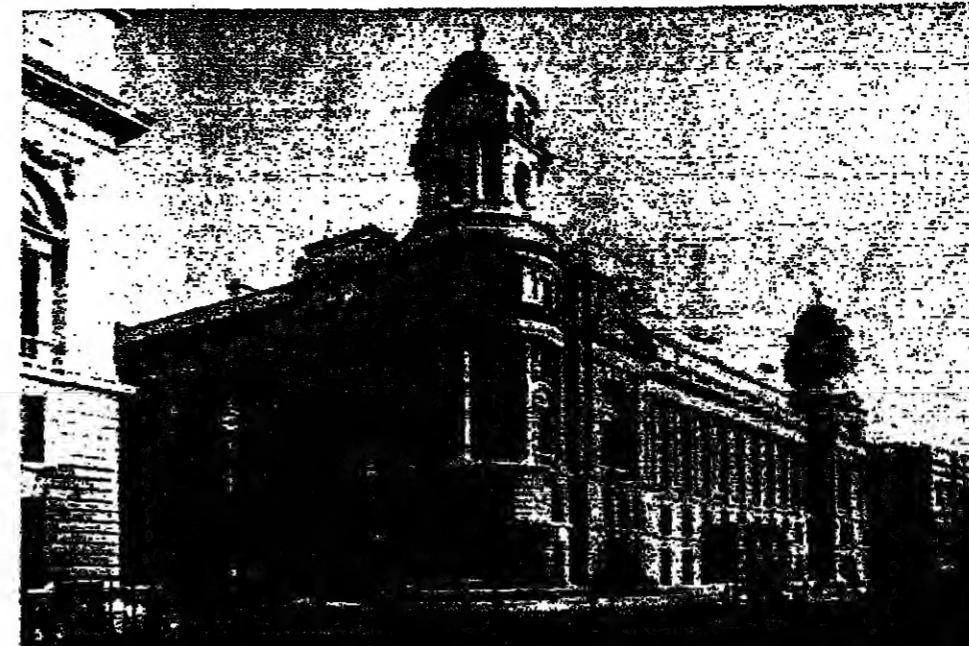
The main contract has been awarded to the refurbishment division of COSTAIN CONSTRUCTION and involves the alteration and refurbishment of existing accommodation within the building to accommodate with new office accommodation and fire regulations. This will entail renewal of all electrical and some mechanical services and the restoration of some of the fine architectural features.

New office accommodation will be constructed from ground to roof level within three light wells, and will be fully suspended from the existing floor slab. The installation of modern air conditioning and computer communication facilities. The main entrance hall and oak panelled rooms at ground and second floor level are to be refurbished and the roof structure, damaged during the Blitz and currently propped by temporary timber structures, restored.

Based on the Edwardian Baroque style, the old War Office building was designed in 1896 by William Young, a Scottish architect who was also responsible for the Glasgow Town Hall. During the first 50 years of its existence the 50,000 sq metres building was the Army Headquarters, housing the Secretary for War and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

LYCETT AND PLATT has been awarded a £1.5m contract by Taylor Woodrow for the design and fitting out of Alexandra Palace, a £10m project which will include public areas, circulation area, the public foyer, the Palace Cinema Bar, a 400-seat restaurant, a function room, the Luton Room, a bar and a snack bar. It is part of the refurbishment programme at Alexandra Palace, which is being converted into a major exhibition/public events centre, which will open in January 1988.

MULTI CONSTRUCTION, Stockport-based subsidiary of the Multi Construction (UK) Group, has been awarded a £1.5m contract by the Property Services Agency for the design, development, construction and administration of a new associated building at the Telemetry Command Station, Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, Hampshire. Work begins on site soon and is expected to finish during February 1988.



The old War Office building in Whitehall about to be modernised to provide office accommodation for the Ministry of Defence.

**Bryant construction**  
**BUSINESS PARKS**  
**SOUTHILL**  
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### Department store in Kingston

The John Lewis Partnership has awarded JOHN MOWLEM & COMPANY a contract worth more than £40m to build a department store in the centre of Kingston-upon-Thames.

The five-storey development will occupy a two acre site beside Kingston Bridge and the river, and provide more than 60,000 sq metres of shop and ancillary space.

A novel feature of the scheme is a new relief road to ease town centre traffic which will run across the middle of the site at ground level. Car parking will be provided on two basement levels beneath the main shopping area.

Construction will feature a reinforced concrete frame with brick cladding. Bored pile foundations, a perimeter diaphragm wall and the bulk of site excavations have already been completed by Mowlem in an initial £5m preparatory package. A new river side landscaped riverside walkway and restaurant units are included in the new contract, which is programmed to take 22 months.

### Norwest Holst active in Scotland

NORWEST HOLST SCOTLAND has been awarded contracts worth £10m for a variety of civil and building works. Included in the building works is the £2.2m alterations and extensions for British Aerospace at Prestwick, a £1.5m extension to HM Prison in Dumfries, and four contracts in Glasgow totalling £4m comprising shop units in central station, new office blocks and the refurbishment of the Royal Infirmary. Making up the civils element are two sewage treatment pumping stations at Kirkcaldy—worth £2.5m—and a £1.5m contract at Barassie.

### Major extension to M40 motorway

R.M. DOUGLAS CONSTRUCTION has received orders worth £36.5m. The Department of Transport has awarded a contract for the Warwick south section of the M40. The project is valued at £22.4m.

It will add 7.9 kilometres of dual three-lane motorway with hard shoulder from the south-west of Warwick to the south-west of Shrewley Common village. The works will include the construction of a grade-separation junction, a railway underbridge, 10 overbridges and seven box culverts.

The new maintenance facility, which includes office accommodation, is to be built adjacent to the test cell in the existing workshops. Refurbishment will be made to the existing workshops to provide office accommodation, and after some demolition an additional 18,500 sq metres of workshops and offices will be built.

British Airways Engine Overhaul, based at Nantgarw, South Glamorgan, has placed an £11.06m contract for maintenance facilities and workshop extension.

The new maintenance facility, which includes office accommodation, is to be built adjacent to the test cell in the existing workshops. Refurbishment will be made to the existing workshops to provide office accommodation, and after some demolition an additional 18,500 sq metres of workshops and offices will be built.

Christie & Salvesen (Food Services) has awarded a £1.5m design and build contract for a 5,600-sq-metre warehouse with office accommodation in Neasden, London NW10. Building work has started on site with completion scheduled for Christmas. The building is of steel portal frame construction, with metal roof and side cladding.

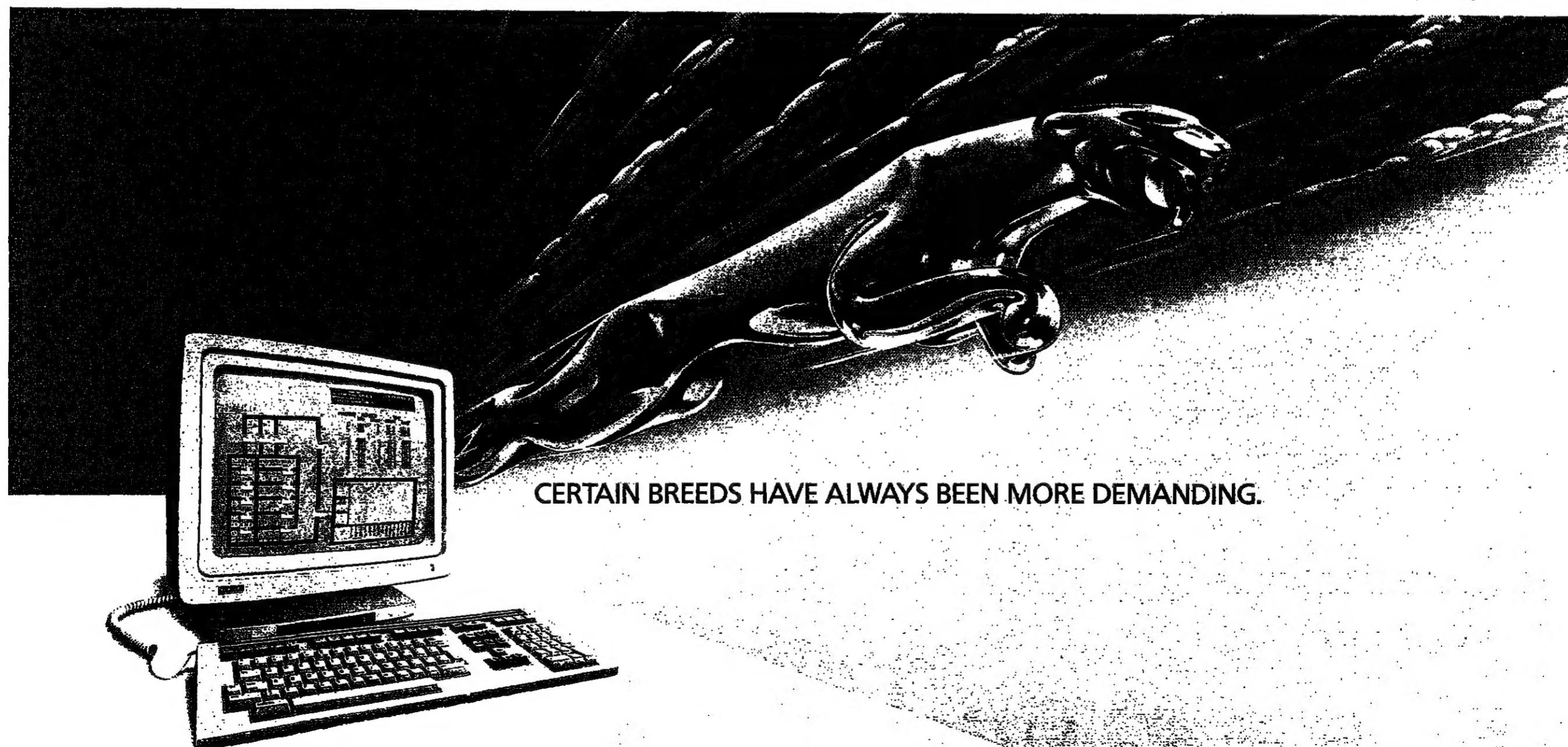
### Sunderland car plant development

As part of the continuing expansion programme by Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) at its new car assembly plant in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SIR ROBERT McALPINE AND SONS has been awarded a further £10.65m worth of design and management contracts.

This additional work covers the construction of a power unit building, a five-unit overbridge and an administration building, together with extensions to the trim and chassis shop and the maintenance shop.

The new single-storey engine shop with a floor area of approximately 15,000 sq metres will be linked to the existing body shop by a 3 metre wide overbridge; the 1,656 sq metres single-storey extension to the chassis shop will provide an additional goods receiving area together with an associated receiving. The maintenance shop will double in size to 1,300 sq metres.

The two-storey administration building providing Nissan with



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Jaguar's current success, though, both in Britain and abroad, is due not only to the improved quality of the product, but also to increases in output and lower costs. A major contributing factor to these advances was the adoption of such advanced techniques as computer integrated manufacturing.

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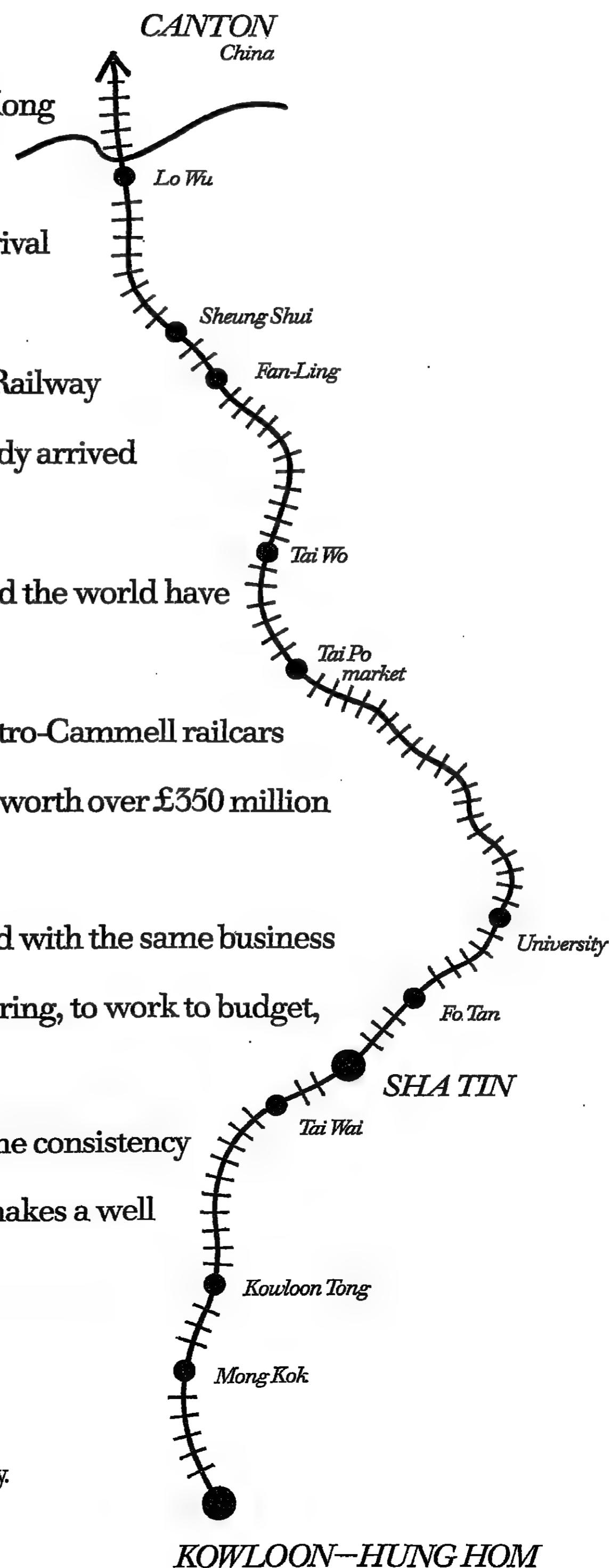
The 6.54 from Sha Tin is just one of the 808 Metro-Cammell railcars currently servicing Hong Kong transportation needs and worth over £350 million in exports to Britain.

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## THE MONDAY PAGE



JOHN LLOYD

IT IS becoming clear that there is a broad identity of political view stretching from the jagged fissure between the Campaign and Tribune groups of the Labour Party, to the equally jagged fissure in the Alliance. This view regards unemployment and poverty as the largest and most dangerous domestic social issues. It supports more public spending and continued public provision of education, health and social services. It is not anti-market but nor does it worship the market.

It is increasingly pro-European. It is very keen on disarmament. That is, the easy part. The question is: will it amount to much?

It is much looking at the various components of this common ground. The Alliance is now providing schadenfreude—that greatest of political joys—to one and all by tearing itself apart. In the way done in a C. P. Snow novel—solemn, civilised and joyously cruel. It is actually rather hard to see real political differences between Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel: Dr Owen's enthusiastic support for the social market has long been shared by Mr Steel (who resents the doctor's monopoly of the phrase); and the SDP stiffened fussy Liberal sines on such issues as the Falklands and the miners' strike hardly bears close examination.

For all that, it must now be accepted that Dr Owen is concerned to carve out an ideologically distinct position for himself (and it may soon be just himself). A merged Liberal Democratic Alliance without him will be more

amenable to deals with the Labour Party. No one will talk about this with any seriousness until next year, when the Alliance will be a real—though not itself—entity. If talking does start, the principal differences may be found to be few.

That will be partly because the Labour Party seems to be in the throes of a realignment of its own: between the soft left and the right. The Tribune shadow Cabinet contains Mr Eric Gould (whose large political presentations tend to include the ability to travel ideologically light); Mr John Prescott (a former union official, who found himself in a campaign studio debate supporting the proposition that Labour should be state-funded to break its dependence on the unions) and Mr Jack Straw (bloodied in endless grinding battles with London borough leaders of the left). It also has bright younger people like Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Harriet Harman. The party is no longer producing stars whose politics are fundamentally different from those of Mr John Cunningham,

Mr Roy Hattersley or Mr John Smith.

This amity owes much to a coming of shirkers from the hard left: motion after several among some on the soft left, since they have been allies of the "hard" and want to distinguish themselves. But it is also potentially more broadly based: the shock of a third defeat by a very wide margin, without the allies of campaign success, has shifted the ground under all those on the left who do not necessarily share confidence in capitalism's ultimate defeat. Mr Michael Meacher's bold nailing of his colours to a new mast which would woe back into the Labour fold the "acquisitive" workers is taken of a cannoneer, and commonly undogmatic, search for new solutions.

What of nationalisation? Of the unions? Of defence? The left has few friends outside the soft left: played little part in the 1987 manifesto and is unlikely to be favoured in future for any more than the public utilities which are monopolies anyway. The unions are needed for money, and to provide

support for the leadership's efforts to democratise the party, and for other changes—but that will not again be true as far as the realm.

Defence is a division which is principled and which runs deep; but the division has nothing to do with socialism, as commonly defined, and is capable of being softened by an accommodation between unilateralists who are pragmatic and unilateralists who really do want disarmament.

These anti-Tory forces face a formidable political and governmental machine which has had the time and vigour to mould the country in the image it wanted: in its third term, it has shown, by its rapid degating of the National Economic Development Council and evident intention to bypass local authorities on education, housing and inner city initiatives, that it is willing to replace many of the structures in society which intervene between state and people with its own fast.

It is producing a society

in which the dynamic is assumed to be concentrated in the market and on the

striving individual; it appears willing to tolerate sharp divisions in wealth and privilege of the other in nominated constituencies—thing new regarded as all but impossible by people on both sides.

Both parties' electoral logic is driving them into the centre-left ground: the more they come to resemble each other, the more bizarre becomes their political differences. To

convince what Mr Richard Holme, the Liberal Party's fixer-philosopher, calls "competitive co-existence" would be an exercise of political diplomacy and restraint rarely seen in political circles.

This division, sharp enough for any democracy, should produce an opposition capable of healing the rift which has kept it from any chance of victory. Many within the Alliance appear to want that to happen: on Labour's side, there is a nice and delayable calculation to be made, as to whether it can hope to squeeze the Alliance down by convincingly re-occupying the centre-left ground—or if it cannot, whether it must make some sort of deal.

And here, as Mr John Smith would say, comes the interesting bit—the one

strategic deal. Labour and Alliance candidates would have to stand aside in favour of the other in nominated constituencies—thing new regarded as all but impossible by people on both sides.

Both parties' electoral logic is driving them into the centre-left ground: the more they come to resemble each other, the more bizarre becomes their political differences. To

convince what Mr Richard Holme, the Liberal Party's fixer-philosopher, calls "competitive co-existence" would be an exercise of political diplomacy and restraint rarely seen in political circles.

It is the result of this possible mutual inclination towards each other by Labour and the Alliance which will determine whether or not the mould is ready to be broken. There are huge institutional and personal differences. There are germs of ideological battles to be fought in the mould. There is a legion of half-abandoned, half-embedded sentiments which would have to be confronted. It would mean a terrible and exhilarating series of decisions which any politician in his or her right mind would want to duck. But the pursuit of power may not leave a choice.

John Lloyd is editor of the New Statesman.

## Towards a true breaking of the mould

## INTERVIEW

## Has been, will travel

David Marsh talks to Helmut Schmidt

HELMUT SCHMIDT, in the best tradition of de-throned older statesmen, is vexed with the ways of the world and its reluctance to follow his advice.

The former West German Chancellor, now 88 and not in the best of health, has, since leaving office in 1982, functioned as a one-man think-tank pouring out international policy prescriptions.

As the co-architect of the European Monetary System (EMS) and the original moving force behind the "zero option" nuclear disarmament proposals now being hammered out between the superpowers, Mr Schmidt commands unique authority on economic and strategic matters—as well as fat fees from international lecture audiences.

His recommendations for closer Franco-German security links have given impetus to the present defence co-operation discussions between Paris and Bonn. But Mr Schmidt's voice, relayed to the public these days largely through long articles in the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit* of which he is now co-publisher, comes from the wilderness.

His calls for expansion of the role of the EMS, which he describes as "a sub-chapter in the grand strategy for integrating Europe," have largely fallen on deaf ears. The same goes for his recipes to prevent what he believes will be a gathering financial crisis caused by the widening US current account deficit.

His basic charge, made with

some bitterness, is that today's Western political leaders are both mediocre intellectually and over-preoccupied with short-term issues. He says he is not pessimistic, just realistic—but his views on prospects for the US and Europe do not sound rosy.

On the West German political scene he once dominated, Mr Schmidt is now firmly off-stage.

His disdain for the Government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl,

the national side of Mr Schmidt's mind rebels against the lack of strategic vision in the West—while perhaps another, less known and more emotional side of him is irked by his failure to master the technique of not growing old.

Mr Schmidt works hard, 60 to 65 hours a week, he says, compared with more than 90 when he was in government.

"Life is easier, the responsibility is limited, from time to time I also write a little. I travel a lot... I find it satisfying at the end of my life to participate in the management of this newspaper."

In his spare time, he never watches television. He lists his activities as "reading, going to the theatre, concerts, sitting at home with my wife playing chess, a little music."

Still accompanied by spurts of guff—habit he compares with a trace of self-mockery to that of Frederick the Great—he describes himself as "a has-been... My possibilities of influencing the German Government are rather small."

He has been working on his new book due out this autumn, describing the link between world personalities and political

power. He has formed a sort of ex-leaders club with friends from the old guard: Gerald Ford, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Jim Callaghan, and so on, whom he very plainly regards as superior to their successors.

From a Western point of view

he is not really aware that a new power structure of the globe is developing. By the end of this century nobody will have any



## PERSONAL FILE

1918—Born December 23

1953—Entered Bundestag

1961—Hamburg Senator of Interior

1969—Defence Minister

1972—Economics and Finance Minister

1974—Chancellor (re-elected 1976 and 1980)

1982—Deposed in parliamentary vote of no confidence

1984—Quits as deputy chairman of SPD

1985—Co-publisher, *Die Zeit*

whom Mr Schmidt has always regarded as something of a bumbler, seems almost matched by distaste of the path followed by his own Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Since leaving office in October 1982 with the break-up of the 13-year coalition between the SPD and the Free Democratic Party (FDP), Mr Schmidt has progressively distanced himself from the SPD.

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some bitterness, is that today's Western political leaders are both mediocre intellectually and over-preoccupied with short-term issues. He says he is not pessimistic, just realistic—but his views on prospects for the US and Europe do not sound rosy.

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SP11/87/87

THE SENTENCE passed on Mr Geoffrey Collier for the new criminal offence of insider dealing—imprisonment for 12 months suspended for two years, a fine of £25,000 and prosecution costs of £7,000—has not met with universal approval. Many thoughtful commentators think that Mr Justice Farquharson should have imposed an immediate term of imprisonment, albeit a short one of six months, and that a fine can never have the impact on other potential insider dealers that actual instant custody of the convicted person would have. For reasons that have to be compressed, this commentator asserts that imprisonment actual or suspended was inappropriate but the fine was insufficiently high.

The criminal offence of insider dealing is exclusively a creature of contemporary statute law. It offends no traditional moral code that instinctively attracts the provisions of a civilised criminal law.

If society needs to proscribe any particular conduct that is not otherwise criminal it must receive before making the offence imprisonable.

The simple fact is that public confidence in the integrity of the securities market requires official reassurance. In a modern democratic society the public perception of unacceptable behaviour can be as important as the behaviour itself. The perceived prevalence of insider dealing, in which the happy few in key positions in the City are in possession of information before the ordinary investor can join in the game, is the key factor. It is unfair that the few can steal a march on the rest of us.

Section one of the Companies Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985 defines the offence as the use—in personal dealings of unauthorised price-sensitive information—about a company by an individual connected with it. In circumstances indicating that the information in question should not be used in that way, dealing before an unannounced takeover bid is a classic example.

Such conduct doubtless reflects an unhealthiness aspect of commercial activity rather like adulterating milk. But if it is to be visited with penal sanctions for any breach, it is reasonably to expect that society needs to visit with the ultimate penalty of loss of liberty.

There is the further question whether the criminal law is the right vehicle for controlling insider dealing. There have been demands for some sort of civil remedy for the "innocent" investor. Indeed existing bills included provisions for a civil remedy but they were ill-drafted and dropped from the 1985 Act.

If the civil remedy of damages is not to be very difficult to come within a mile of satisfying those criteria. Even a suspended prison sentence could only be of cosmetic effect to reflect the comparatively serious nature of the offence. His fine should have been in six not five figures.

Commentators have rightly pointed out that it remains to be seen how much of a deterrent Mr Collier's fate will be to others who might think in terms of a trade-off between insider profit and any likely fines.

Criminological studies have invariably concluded that it is very difficult to determine whether a particular punishment does or does not deter. The impact of the criminal justice system is the degree of risk of conviction and if it is the penalty that might be inflicted.

The contemporary view is that those who make a profit out of crime should be made to disgorge it on conviction. Hence the crime that puts money into an offender's pocket should normally be visited with monetary penalties.

Imprisonment is a scarce resource that needs to be used sparingly, and then only to contain those whose behaviour is inimical to social equilibrium and may be very dangerous.

Mr Collier's fate did not come within a mile of satisfying those criteria. Even a suspended prison sentence could only be of cosmetic effect to reflect the comparatively serious nature of the offence. His fine should have been in six not five figures.

THE RAT FORCE  
Snick & Winkie



## THE ARTS

New York architecture/Paula Deitz

## Good urban design—in a university campus

Some of the best days for appraising architecture often come when least expected—as the afternoon I sat out of doors recently, one of 37,000 spectators, in the great south court of Columbia University to see 7,200 students receive their degrees on Commencement Day. Not that this was my first time at Columbia; for many years I crossed the same green from Butler Library and climbed the three grand tiers of steps and stone-patterned plazas at the north end to enter the smaller courtyards of classroom buildings. I even got a degree, dressed in the customary slate-blue robe; but the graduates, from where they sit on the raised plaza, do not get the full impact of the McKim, Mead & White 1893 master plan.

One imagines that the architect Charles F. McKim had Commencement Day in mind when he devised a block campus, enclosed apart from city streets, because it never looks better than it does with a sea of people surrounded on three sides by its irregular wall of brick and limestone-trimmed Art Nouveau-style university buildings.

He made much of little space by increasing the levels, and then by crowning the position at the top of the steps with a monumental domed building, its Ionic colonnade, in New York's best 1890s classical civic style. Low Library, as it is called, ceased functioning as a library in 1934, but serves still to lift the whole campus skyward. With all this well-gowned graduates filling the plaza just below, and a flat expanse of sunny blue sky above, one could sense the power of McKim's design-culture in its symbolic form.

Graduates this year were in an ebullient mood—symbolised by the cloud of light blue and white balloons (the university colours) that were released to disperse overhead, in the air and throughout the entire ceremony, several colourfully large plastic beach-balls were bounced from group to group. Even the blue-painted loudspeakers mounted on high poles had the air of a garden of giant bluebells. As each



The great south court of Columbia University on Graduation Day

school was called to get its degrees, the graduates proudly raised symbols of their professions: architecture, yellow drafting paper; journalism, shredded newspaper; business, dollar bills. In a more serious moment, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine administered the Hippocratic Oath to the new doctors.

Founded in 1754 as King's College, Columbia College is the undergraduate division. In this, its first co-educational commencement, both the valedictorian and salutatorian were women. Among the 10 recipients of honorary degrees were the author Philip Roth, whose prize-winning *Goodbye Darkness* in New York, and would correct himself in a later column.

The San Francisco I know is still the city Mumford wrote about in his last "Skyline" column, for the December 7, 1986 issue. "Burgess hills, wildish weather, and multi-coloured buildings, bleached white." He also wrote of walking there at night in a mist that transformed the hillside buildings into a magical setting. "It is in the ensemble, not in individual buildings, that one finds the city's flavour," he said.

William Shawn, *The New Yorker*'s longtime editor, never replaced Mumford, perhaps he hoped that as long as Mumford was alive (and he still is) another "incomer" might appear. But now under the new ownership of S.I. Newhouse Jr and a new editor, Robert Gottlieb, the column has been restored, written by architectural historian Brendan Gill, who has already served *The New Yorker* many years as a staff writer and theatre critic.

Comparisons are not useful in this situation, for what one sees is not a similarity of style but of effect, and it is too soon to tell. In Gill's first "Skyline" (February 23 1987) he set forth his prospectus by taking Mumford's programme as a sort of manifesto and by defining architecture as "a shelter for the practical sense, but as an art in the ceremonial or sacred realm." This led naturally to his second column on June 8 about whether Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum should be allowed to build its extension, a modest tower designed by Gwathmey Siegel behind the inverted zigzag. Rather than

taking a personal view, Gill follows The New Yorker tradition of profiles by giving a lengthy detailed history of both the Guggenheim collection and Wright's sole, sometimes counterproductive, goal of designing "a thrilling architectural form". In a few final paragraphs of criticism, Gill favours the extension, which will magnify the museum's usefulness, because it will not alter our visual perception of the masterpiece.

Somehow Mumford in fewer words put down the Guggenheim nicely when comparing it to another Wright spiral interior which makes "far more sense than the Guggenheim Museum, for the rooms themselves are

known to me, one of them a

British premiere.

On Friday, June 26 we had *No One Knows Why*, from 1935.

In this, Romeo Daddi (David Suchet) has gone a little mad.

This is at first explained by his recollection of having killed a boy when he was himself a boy, a crime committed when he was in a kind of trance, and never attributed to him. But as the talk goes on (and how it does) it seems that he may also have seduced Geneva

Vauzi (Eleanor Bron), the wife

of a naval officer friend, while

she returns to the theatre. And

now when she plays a love scene for which she is famous she plays it in a new way—she makes love as she made love to Eli. Eli walks out and leaves her, but Donata feels that she has encountered a test and passed it. "The only truth is that we have to go on creating ourselves."

I found this a more interesting play dramatically, even if its argument is familiar from Pirandello's other work. Gemma Jones was Donata, Jon Strickland was Eli, and the director was John Theodore.

*The Co-op in the Cornfield* (Radio 4) was about the British North of England open-air museum, the current Museum of the Year and nominated as European ditto. The Beamish Museum comprises an entire community, shops, streets, trams, a farm, even a coal mine, whose constituents have been moved from their original sites and assembled in a field in Co. Durham. It is all disguised as if it belongs to the 1920s, food packages in the Co-op and all. Tangible history, you might call it.

Radio/B. A. Young

## Pirandellian themes

The Radio 3 searchlight was on Pirandello last week. On Sunday, a feature, *Crisis in the Mirror*, surveyed his approach to the drama, an approach conveyed in the title of one of his best known plays, *It's true if that's how you see it*. Long, Thomas, from Bell University, complained in his review that little Pirandello is done here. Certainly, of the first 2,500 plays I reviewed these pages, only 10 were by Pirandello, and these included three productions of *The Game*. Radio 3 began its season with two plays unknown to me, one of them a British premiere.

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## More Gershwin Years/Barbican Hall

David Murray

Last Thursday the penultimate concert in the London Symphony's Gershwin festival, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas, found room for three soloists as well as a lusty male-voice quartet. The latter (Robert Stuart, Stuart Kite, Alan Opie and Roderick Kennedy) were the supporting "family" for the anti-heroine of Kurt Weill's *Street-Deadly Song*; they kept a nice iron edge (and impressive pitch) in their unaccompanied number. So did Julie Migenes, whose properly Lenya-style singing boasted good German, bags of personality and a microphone.

It was a pity that the Barbican

programme-book for this whole series, as for others, missed out in fine idiomatic style. Peter Donohoe was thoroughly reliable at the piano, as usual, though a few more touches of impertinent brightness would enliven his reading (and steady, repeated notes—but perhaps it is only the acoustic that daubed them). Earlier, Larry Adler came out to smooth knowingly through a "Lullaby" that Gershwin wrote for string quartet around 1920, while the L.S.O. strings accompanied him perfectly straight; ten fairly bizarre minutes. The hammering Concerto came as a great relief.

## Moray Welsh/Wigmore Hall

Andrew Clements

The care and the thought which lie behind Moray Welsh's interpretations of an enviable wide-ranging cello repertoire are carried through into his programme planning and his recordings. In the Wigmore Hall last Thursday with the pianist Martin Hosack, was conceived as an exploration of the vein of melancholy that runs through the cello "literature" of the late 19th and early 20th centuries from List to Rachmaninov.

It was a fascinating journey, which touched upon some very dusty corners of writing for the instrument. An opening Busoni group self-contained miniatures, the "Alouette" and the barcarolle-like "Serenata" between three movements of the early Kleine Suite; none of the pieces

was strongly characterised

Gershwin's Piano Concerto rang out in fine idiomatic style. Peter Donohoe was thoroughly reliable at the piano, as usual, though a few more touches of impertinent brightness would enliven his reading (and steady, repeated notes—but perhaps it is only the acoustic that daubed them). Earlier, Larry Adler came out to smooth knowingly through a "Lullaby" that Gershwin wrote for string quartet around 1920, while the L.S.O. strings accompanied him perfectly straight; ten fairly bizarre minutes. The hammering Concerto came as a great relief.

From the back of the platform the solo trumpet in

## FINANCIAL TIMES

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## Power and the press barons

LORD YOUNG's much criticised decision last week to allow News International to purchase the Today newspaper without a prior investigation by the UK Monopolies and Mergers Commission is certain to lead to calls in the House of Commons for a change in the laws governing newspaper mergers. Much will be made of the "special" nature of the industry and the need to prevent an excessive concentration of power in the hands of a few press barons.

The disquiet is understandable. Newspapers do influence public opinion and their ownership does affect their political allegiance. Politicians and the public do therefore have a legitimate interest in the outcome of takeover battles, especially when the balance of political allegiance of the major titles deviates so markedly from the voting pattern of the electorate.

The laws governing newspaper mergers were framed with these political realities in mind and are ostensibly tougher than those in other industries. A threatened market share of 25 per cent or more is usually the trigger for a possible investigation by the monopolies commission. But in the newspaper industry, the Trade Secretary, in theory, cannot give his consent to mergers involving more than a small share of the market (a combined circulation of 1m copies) without first ordering a full monopolies inquiry. In practice, he can, because

newspapers rarely change hands unless they are in grave economic difficulties, in which case a special let-out clause can be invoked in order to facilitate a rapid sale. This technicality was exploited last week in the case of the Sunday Times and also, last week, when Mr Rupert Murdoch gained control of the Times and the Sunday Times without an independent scrutiny by the competition authorities.

The public has a right to feel let down. A Government that never ceases to preach the virtues of competition has allowed Mr Murdoch, without challenge, to acquire titles amounting to around a third of total national newspaper sales in the UK. Moreover, although the special newspaper legislation clearly leaves much to be desired, the failure has mainly been one of political will.

Lord Young's haste to comply with the official decision, injured up by a couple of entrepreneurs was both naive and ungracious. He should have called their bluff and mocked the acumen of businessmen who value an asset at £38m today and nothing tomorrow. A reference to the monopolies commission was necessary and almost certainly would not have led to the closure of Today. Even if it had, the importance of 500 jobs can be overstated when a principle is at stake. Britain needs a competitive and diverse newspaper industry; it has little chance of getting one if the Government continues to shrink its responsibilities.

## Where markets should rule

IN WASHINGTON, a decision last week to terminate a treaty with the Netherlands Antilles was understandable and justifiable. To profess a commitment to free international capital flows and open financial markets, as the US has done, and then to take decisions that retroactively change the rules for international investors, is an unsupportable policy combination. The Treasury's belated move to introduce legislation which would preserve the existing tax status of the \$30bn of bonds issued by US companies through the Antilles is thus to be applauded.

For good or ill, the so-called globalisation of financial markets limits the freedom of action of individual governments and governments must learn to live with it. Western nations have already realised the crucial interdependence of economic policy, and authorities are working towards better co-ordination of regulatory attitudes to their domestic banking systems and financial markets.

Now, the need is to broaden this process to all aspects of financial policy. The existing links, for example, between the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodities Futures Trading Commission in the US and the UK Department of Trade and Industry are a significant step in this direction. Financial market participants need to be brought into the process.

Had the Treasury consulted more the likelihood is that it could have prevented a week of dismay in the Eurobond market and avoided an embarrassing partial reversal of its original move. More co-ordination over these issues is not a matter of adherence to some vague notion of international co-operation; it is a question of self-interest.

## The punishment of Toshiba

TOSHIBA'S machine tool subsidiary damaged western security by selling equipment to the Soviet Union that enabled it to build much quieter submarines. The Japanese company is paying dearly for a flagrant abuse of Japanese law and of the informal vetting system designed to keep out of the Communist's hands. But the case seems to have excited, both in the US and in Japan, a wave of hysteria and mutual recrimination out of all proportion to the offence.

When ten Congressmen take a sledgehammer to a Toshiba radio on the Capitol lawn, it suggests the security of one Japanese company providing a pretext to attack the whole country for its commercial success in the US market. The tally of Toshiba's penalties is already long. Both the chairman and president of the parent company resigned last week, despite having claimed they had no managerial responsibility for the offending subsidiary, Toshiba Machine. The subsidiary itself has been fined by the Japanese Government and barred from selling any goods to Communist countries for a year.

## BRITAIN'S MINERS

## The fight looks unwinnable

By Charles Leadbeater

THE PICTURESQUE Isle of Bute in the west of Scotland will this week host the National Union of Mineworkers' annual conference. It is likely to mark a turning point for the coal industry, the union and its leaders.

The key debate will centre on British Coal's drive to introduce new working arrangements to allow more intensive use of capital. Mr Scargill is opposed to the changes, and the conference seems certain to back him. Both the industry's and the union's futures are yet again on the line.

The battle will centre on South Wales, where British Coal's plans to develop a 1.2m-tonnes-a-year pit at Margam are providing the first test of the corporation's determination to press ahead with extending production to six days a week.

The NUM is in an impossible position. A vote this week to oppose change would force the South Wales leadership either to defer the conference and its leader or risk seeing British Coal scrap the project. If Mr Scargill wins, then British Coal will have no alternative but to turn to other unions, such as the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, to negotiate the changes.

The union is facing two main pressures. The first is British Coal's strategy to change working practices, the most controversial element of which is the introduction of flexible shift patterns to raise productivity. British Coal has 13 pits, including Margam, where it wants new shift arrangements to reverse them.

The NUM leader believes the 1908 Hours of Work Act and the 40-year-old five-day week agreement are vital safeguards for miners' interests. Six-day production was first mooted in the 1950s at the planned Beaufort colliery. It is a measure of the NUM's strength that it has resisted the proposal for more than 30 years. He argues that British Coal's plans reflect not market pressures but a long-delayed drive to weaken the union.

While British Coal argues that lower unit costs will safeguard jobs, Mr Scargill is concerned that flexible shifts will lead to over 50,000 job losses as a result of productivity increases.

Mr Scargill's reasons for rejecting the corporation's proposals are clear. British Coal is increasingly seeking local agreements over working practices and productivity bonus schemes; it is a small step from there to local bargaining over flexible shifts. Mr Scargill is determined to maintain a central role for the national union and himself. He believes

existing pits. If unit costs are to be brought down, then capital must be used more intensively.

The industry also faces the threat of cheap imports from Australia, South Africa, China and South America, where unit costs are low. World coal prices are dominated in US dollars and sterling's relative strength against the dollar has made British coal less competitive.

The second major pressure on the union comes from the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, based in Nottinghamshire. The willingness of the 25,000-strong union to negotiate has left the much larger NUM trailing in its wake. Mr Roy Lynd, the UDM's president, has made it clear his union is prepared to consider the introduction of flexible shifts at greenfield sites.

With several large new pits planned by the UDM in the area of Nottinghamshire and in the Midlands, the opportunities for the union to boost its membership are obvious. The NUM's weakness in this key Nottinghamshire coalfield is likely to become an increasingly painful thorn in its side.

Mr Scargill's response to both these pressures has typically been delivered from hard left tablets of stone. As Sir Robert Haslam puts it: "The older things are, the more he seems to revert them."

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a membership ballot would support him even in South Wales where the rank and file are less enthusiastic about six-day working than their leaders.

This strategy is likely to provoke increasing tensions, as more areas face the prospect of job losses unless they agree to flexibility. South Wales will not wish to give up the 800 jobs promised at Margam, despite Mr Scargill's opposition to flexibility, and Scottish leaders have a similar interest in the 1,000 jobs at the Seaford-Francis colliery.

The Midland's willingness of the 25,000-strong union to negotiate has left the much larger NUM trailing in its wake. Mr Roy Lynd, the UDM's president, has made it clear his union is prepared to consider the introduction of flexible shifts at greenfield sites.

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Mr Scargill argues that the corporation plans to pick off vulnerable peripheral coalfields before pressing for changes in the key Yorkshire coalfield.

Critics from South Wales and Scotland, however, retort that this is mere Yorkshire chauvinism. The NUM's

Yorkshire area has already accepted important changes in the Doncaster area, as well as potential



vive a coherent alternative to Mr Scargill.

The fate of this or any other proposal however rests in the hands of the leadership of the Yorkshire NUM. Mr Jack Taylor, the Yorkshire leader, has distanced himself from Mr Scargill, over the last two years. However, with one eye on militant critics in the coalfield Mr Taylor has yet to make his criticisms of the leader public.

The plan will also propose that the NUM should accept a compromise with the UDM.

His position may have been somewhat modified by the election on to the executive of the one man who may prove to have the confidence and power to challenge Mr Scargill. He is Mr John Walsh, the popular, right-wing NUM organiser in the North Yorkshire coal field. Many in the union believe it is the prospect of Mr Walsh's rise to a high position within the union that will galvanise the non-Scargill left into agreeing an alternative strategy.

If such a strategy does not emerge the prospects for the union look bleak. Should areas of the union press ahead with six-day working in defiance of Mr Scargill, this would fragment the union further. Should Mr Scargill's authority prevail, then British Coal will have to turn to other unions willing to introduce periodic re-election for all senior union officers starting with Mr Scargill.

The anti-Scargill groupings in the union have a strong pragmatic interest in reunification.

Reincorporation of the UDM's 25,000 moderate members would be the most effective way to challenge the left wing leader.

Proponents of this initiative admit its chances of success are slim given the deep scars left by the strike. A merger would probably only take place in the unlikely event of both Mr Lynd and Mr Scargill standing down.

But it could provide a catalyst for new executive members, such as Mr Alan Cummins, from the North East, to join with established figures such as Mr Geoff Bolton and Mr Eric Cleverdon in Scotland, Mr Des Durdell and Mr George Rees in South Wales, and Mr Gordon Butler from Derbyshire, to pro-

tably far-reaching amendments to working practices at the enormous Selby complex.

The critics argue that Mr Scargill wants to strengthen the dominance of his Yorkshire power base which, with 30,000 members, is by far the largest area of the union. Indeed, some South Wales activists believe that Mr Scargill is opposed to Margam because without its membership in the South Wales area will drop below 10,000 and the area will lose one of its two seats on the national executive.

The antagonism likely to be provoked by Mr Scargill's approach to flexible working will add to discontent on the union's executive over his

no coherent alternative has yet emerged to Mr Scargill. An indication of divisions on Saturday

when it split 10 votes to 10 on whether to recommend that conference vote against six-day working.

The first moves to establish an alternative strategy will be taken after the conference, as part of an initiative launched by Mr Peter Carter, the Communist Party's industrial organiser. Several NUM leaders have agreed to consider his proposals which closely reflect the views of the left and South Wales NUM. The new executive will add to discontent on the union's executive over his

## PILOTS WHERE BRITISH COAL WANTS FLEXIBLE SHIFTS

Scotland—Seaford/Francis: Investment: £20m; Jobs: 1,000; Six-day production.

North East—Westhoe and Wearmouth collieries: Investment: £20m; Jobs: 1,000; Longer day shifts.

Yorkshire—Kellingley, Askern, Hatfield and Thorne: Investment: approx £400m; Jobs: 2,000; Six-day production.

Nottinghamshire—Harworth and Cottager collieries: Investment: approx £180m; Jobs: More than 1,000; Six-day production.

Leicestershire—Asfordby: Investment: approx £260m-£300m; Jobs: 1,400; Six-day production.

South Midlands—Hawthorn Moon colliery: Investment: £400m; Jobs: 1,500; Six-day production.

Staffordshire—Le Hall: Investment: £280m; Jobs: 1,000; Six-day production.

South Wales—Margam: Investment: £90m; Jobs: 800; Six-day production.

## Men and Matters

## Helsbourg's strategic moves

The debate over turning France's long-standing Gaullist defence policy in a more European direction has been given added impetus by an article in the latest issue of *Politique Internationale*.

The status quo has been rendered impossible, according to the author, Francois Helsbourg, by the many shifts in the external environment: the novelty of Soviet policy under Gorbachev, the uncertainty of the American response, the budgetary pressures which are likely to lead to cuts in the US forces in Europe, and the resulting anxieties in the European half of the Alliance.

In response to these new circumstances, Helsbourg argues that France should make a public commitment to the automatic engagement of French forces in the event of a conflict in Europe. This would be a major break with the Gaullist doctrine that France must reserve the right to decide on the day whether to take part in a war in Europe.

In addition, he urges co-operation with Britain on the development of a new generation of supersonic air-launched cruise missiles and the withdrawal of US troops (up to 50,000), their replacement by French forces.

The article, which has been described by a European diplomat as "one of the most impressive contributions to the debate in recent years," is also notable because Helsbourg is a former member of the French Foreign Ministry.

Beyond that, he is the author of the controversial "Helsbourg's memorandum" on the basis of national law and procedures.

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budget has to be put to the National Assembly early in the autumn. Juppe is planning to hold expenditure increases below the anticipated inflation rate next year of 2 per cent and to cut the budget deficit by FF 15bn to FF 115bn.

Today he has his final negotiating session with the spending ministers when he meets Philippe Seguin, Social Affairs and Employment Minister, over the size and nature of the Government's job creation plan for the young—a sensitive issue in an election year.

Juppe has not had great difficulty in his bargaining with his colleagues and does not anticipate any greater problems when the Budget goes before the Parliament. The centrist have none-the-less said they will press the Administration to give stronger fiscal incentives for investment.

Still only in his early 40s, Alain Juppe is one of the younger and most successful ministers in Jacques Chirac's

government. Budget ministers have in the past risen to high positions — Valery Giscard d'Estaing rose to be President and Laurent Fabius became Prime Minister.

Paribas' Pierre

One of the world's largest construction firms has now its representative. Roseine Pierre, a 52-year-old Paris stockbroker, has been named as a new board member at Paribas to look after the interests of the myriad small shareholders in the recently privatised French building group.

Co-opted to the board this time around, Mrs Pierre has 10 months before the next Paribas annual general meeting in which to win the votes of her 3,100 constituents.

Among the other privatised companies, Credit Commercial de France and St Gobain have already appointed board members to represent the small shareholders in the recent privatisations of the usual club of retired judges and civil servants.

Paribas tried harder and eventually hit on someone who has been described as "La Pasionaria of popular capitalism" and who has 20 years of experience in the financial world.

Author of "The stock exchange within your reach," Mrs Pierre also founded the first women's investment club in France and has sponsored similar women's clubs in the UK, Belgium, Italy and Spain.

With her appointment at Paribas she has marked another step forward, for the notoriously masculine bank has never before allowed a woman into the boardroom of its elegant headquarters in Paris's Rue d'Antin.

Admitting only to skiing, Mrs Pierre is also a member of the French explorers and travellers club, joining her husband Bernard, whose exploits in the Andes and the Himalayas made him famous long before he became a stock-broker.

Budget ministers work through the summer because under the constitution the

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**A** SMILE lights up the face of Mr Kichiro Tamura, a director of Japan's biggest government research centre, when he is asked about collaboration with companies. In an admission that would probably bring him the sack were he working in government research in the US or UK, the amiable director of research planning of the Electrotechnical Laboratory confesses that none of his own technical projects, in a 20-year career, have reached fruition in industry.

"We don't see it as our role to do work of immediate commercial significance," says Mr Tamura. "The goal is to do original research."

After two decades of all-out effort in technology, in which the Japanese have caught up with and in some cases outshone the west, the current drive in Japan is towards breakthroughs in pure science, in areas such as new materials and biochemistry which are unrelated to short-term industrial needs.

The aim is enshrined in concrete at Tsukuba Science City, a gleaming new town an hour's drive from Tokyo, which houses dozens of Government research centres, including the Electrotechnical Laboratory.

The city, completed in 1980 at a cost in the Japanese taxpayer of some \$3bn, "has heightened the visibility" of science, says Mr Tamura. He points out with pride that luminaries, such as Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterrand, have been to Tsukuba and been impressed.

Sentiments about the worth of scientific activities spill out of a stream of Government documents, which call for the 1980s to be "a decade of innovation" for Japan. And the same thrust is behind proposals for grandioses international programme in medicine and bioscience, the Human Frontiers project. The scheme would involve researchers around the world but be led by Japanese scientists.

Behind these idealistic-sounding activities are some hard economic and political objectives. Japanese spending on research and development (R and D), which in absolute terms is second only to that of the US, is heavily oriented towards short-term industrial applications.

Roughly three-quarters of the country's R and D spending, which in 1985 totalled Y7.820bn (£34bn), is contributed by industry, while the comparable fraction in western Europe and the US is about half. Only 15 per cent of the total budget is directed at "basic" or non-applied research.

The accent on industrial needs is made even sharper by the low sums spent in Japan on military research, which in the

## JAPANESE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



## The search for some home-grown heroes

By Peter Marsh

US, France and Britain accounts for around a quarter of each country's total R and D outlay.

The number of R and D workers in Japan has been climbing by about 7 per cent a year, far above the level in other industrialised nations in recent years. Dr Michiyuki Ueda, vice-president and director of research at NEC, the electronics company, says that this rapid expansion will automatically lead to exciting discoveries in science.

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Trade and Industry, and chain man of Technow, a Tokyo-based research group. "To survive, we have to be more innovative in science."

The argument is that extra money for basic science is less important than the need to inculcate new attitudes among the researchers who do the work. In consensus-ridden Japan, they are deemed relatively unlikely to go out on a limb with an idea.

Another objective behind the new thrust is related to the frequently heard—and perhaps until recently—rebuttal that the nation has exploited scientific ideas which originated in other countries.

The incentive is particularly fierce in the US, where it has been stoked up by allegations of unfair trading. Some Japanese fear that the ill-feeling could ultimately lead to restrictions on the flow of scientific and technical information reaching their fair shares, either through government-inspired curbs on technology transfer or, at the very least, through stiff price increases for licensing deals.

Behind the debate over pure science activities is the question of whether Japan is cap-

able of making fundamental advances in these areas. Commentators in the west often argue that, where R and D is concerned, Japan is a nation of imitators and will find it difficult to adjust its focus towards original work. Evidence for this point of view comes from the country's poor performance in winning Nobel prizes in science and technology.

As a riposte, Professor Gene Gregory, an American who has monitored technology developments in Japan for 30 years, says that the relative lack of achievement in pure science has little to do with the country's abilities in innovative thinking, in which he says it has excelled in a variety of areas, from materials to electronics.

Japan's preoccupations in the past, says Professor Gregory, chairman of the department of comparative culture at Sophia University in Tokyo, have been not with making scientific leaps but with improving technical ideas in order to advance economically. "Their needs are elsewhere. You can't eat Nobel prizes," he says.

Professor Kent Bowen, a materials expert at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has close contacts with Japan, says: "The Japanese system may not have inspired creativity—but then it wasn't geared to creativity. Now it's changing, they'll deliver."

One of the main reasons for Professor Bowen's optimism is, he says, the deep interest in science and technology among the Japanese population. A recent three-day fair on ceramic materials—a subject which in Britain would be regarded as mind-crushing—bored no fewer than 200,000 visitors.

Many Japanese worry, however, that, despite official exhortations to develop original thinking in science, the general level of bureaucracy in industry and government laboratories, together with the regimented style of schools and universities, will prove highly resistant to change, at least for a decade or so. As a result, it may be harder to produce the bright, individualistic researchers needed to push the country's scientific base into vanishing.

"It's difficult to grow heroes," admits Dr Kuni Chiba, head of a Japanese Government programme called ERATO intended to develop research

drives in fields including crystal production, polymers and biotechnology. Dr Chiba says he wants to attract this kind of person to his programme as a way of inspiring other researchers to follow new trends.

Most unusually in Japanese society, which is dominated by group structures rather than individuals, ERATO's official brochure lists each of its research projects under the name of the person in charge. What is more, the names are spelt out in capital letters and accompanied by big, colour photographs of the individual concerned, as though the scientists were pop stars or famous footballers.

Fitting into Dr Chiba's ideas about charismatic leaders is Professor Jun-ichi Nishizawa, an electronics specialist at Tohoku University, who leads one of the ERATO projects. Professor Nishizawa is regarded as one of Japan's most brilliant scientists, Nobel-prize winning material. He is also thought of as something of a maverick who likes being outspoken and stirring things up.

The professor, who has been responsible for a series of scientific advances in areas such as semiconductor physics and optical fibres, and who works with companies such as Yamaha, Mitsubishi and Hitachi, says he is pessimistic about the chances of Japan making a success of its drive into pure science. "Education in Japan is very systematised. It's too much geared towards accumulating knowledge rather than deepening rather than

Other observers, however, point to the rapid changes among the more youthful sections of Japanese society, who may well shake up the older generation into adopting less stereotypical ways in scientific research.

Mr Kazu Aochi, president of Intelligent Wave, a successful software company, whose employees eschew the bureaucratic approach of the better established Japanese electronics concerns, says: "Younger researchers are pressing for more freedom. They are becoming gawsternised—they are becoming more selfish."

Professor Shoji Tanaka, a leading Japanese superconductivity expert who is among the country's most venerable researchers, is in no doubt about which way the country is heading. Speaking in his indescribable study at Tokyo University, Professor Tanaka says: "For a long time the Japanese people had the feeling they were behind in science. But now the inferiority complex is starting to vanish."

"We do have a relatively inflexible university system. But competition is sharpening things up. The young people are changing and will force their professors to adopt different ideas."

## Lombard

# Fiscal policy, a timely plan

By Samuel Brittan

ONE SO-CALLED problem beginning to be discussed by City analysts is how the Government should react if the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement undershoots the £2bn target set by the Chancellor for the current financial year and the one immediately following.

Should such a fiscal dividend be used to move towards eliminating the published PSBR? Or should it be used to our taxes or to increase spending on fashioning programmes such as education or the inner cities?

But before going any further we should also consider a very different set of problems. The London Business School June Economic Outlook examines the possible effect on the British economy of a (not very draconian) world growth

cent of GDP, to be achieved without taking credit for privatisation. Instead of being the dim and distant aim which appeared in the budget speech, this should be promoted as an objective to be achieved as soon as conditions permit.

The new target would depend on the assumption that the British economy remains on course. So long as there is no world or British recession, and the danger remains more one of excessive than of deficient demand, then the achievement of the new objective would take immediately.

It would mean a zero PSBR or slight surplus as conventionally calculated; and this aim would take precedence over both tax cuts and public spending concessions.

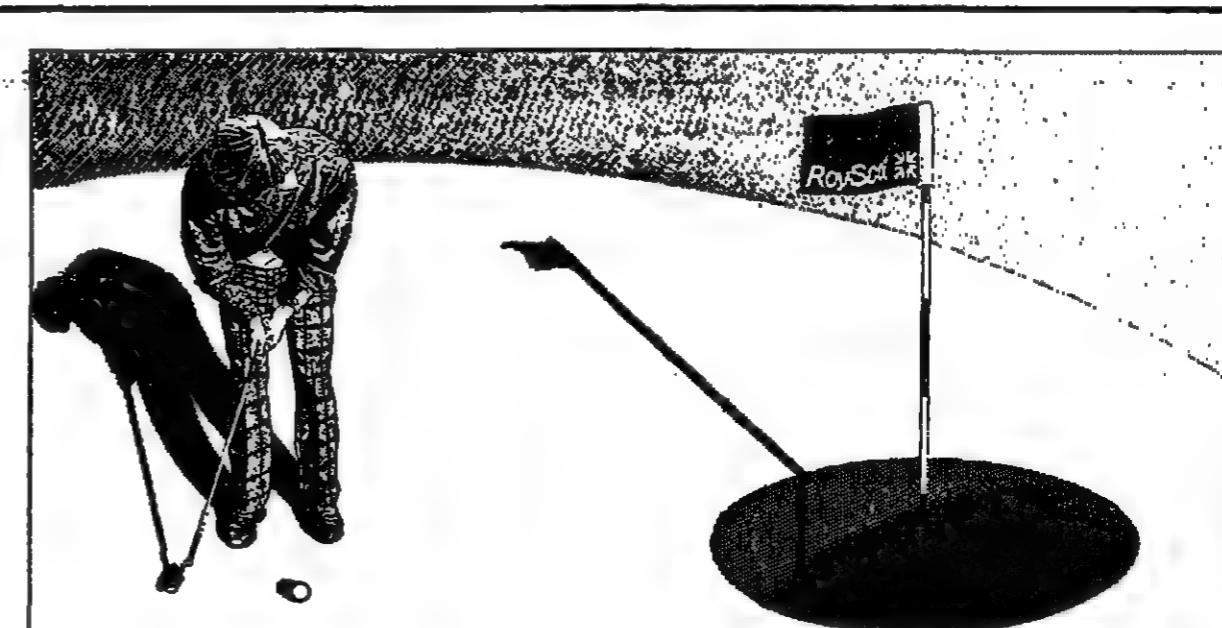
The other half of the suggestion is that this very severe fiscal objective should be tied to the achievement of some projected growth rate of nominal or real GDP.

If growth is below what was projected, the PSBR should be allowed to overshoot and the attainment of the pure 1 per cent objective deferred.

Quite apart from the obvious justification of this derogation on demand management lines, there is also a more technical justification. It is that the Government, like other bodies, should plan on the basis of long term (or "permanent") income and may legitimately borrow externally or internally to offset a temporary or emergency shortfall. The other side of the coin is that it should not spend temporary windfalls.

The two sides of the strategy hang together rather well. For the most convincing justification for a severe PSBR as 1 per cent of GDP without privatisation is that the Government is then in a fiscal position strong enough to contemplate vigorous anti-recession policies, which are denied to administrations hagridden by problems of deficit and debt.

Be severe in using fiscal policy to reduce the underlying budget deficit, but be generous in departing from this guideline to offset recession. Anyone who thinks such a strategy mere common sense will be astonished at the number of intellectual vested interests it manages to offend.



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## Brain drain effects

From Dr A. Rogers

Sir—David Fashlock's two articles (June 30) about the Royal Society's report on the so-called "brain drain" conclude that the loss of UK scientists overseas is too small to warrant concern, and is almost compensated for by the arrival of scientists here from abroad. I only wish such complacency were justified. Anyone who has been in UK university science departments for the past decade, will not share such complacency, because we have to live with what is left behind; and what is left behind is a department after department with distorted age profile. Holders of permanent posts are almost all well into their fifties. Younger people, who emerged into the system during the contracting phase (which began in the late 1970s, under this Government) have faced an almost total freeze on permanent posts, and live a hand-to-mouth existence on short-term contracts, often with no possibility of renewal. It is the best of these young people, those good enough to be offered permanent posts in the US (which are not easy to obtain), who are the chief contributors to the brain drain. These are precisely the people that this country can least afford to lose.

Government cuts in funding may or may not be reflected in the remaining "dead wood" from universities. What is certain is that they are extremely effective in preventing the live, new wood of the rising generation from playing its part in the system. If these policies go on and on, for another decade the universities will have lost their capacity for renewing themselves; leaving aside wider issues, such as the place of scholarship in a civilised country, the economic consequences will be staggering.

(Dr) Alice Rogers, 21 Keyes Road, NW 8

**Management education**

From the Director General, British Institute of Management

Sir—Your letters page (June 25) on the date of the Queen's Speech captured some of the most pressing problems facing the nation: the needs of the inner cities, student skills, and the making of managers. This Institute welcomes the Government's proposals to tackle the first two problems but we are surprised at its continued lack of a wholehearted public commitment to management education.

A new climate of enterprise and initiative is certainly needed for the whole nation—not least in the inner cities—but in the last analysis it is

the quality of British management which will determine whether or not the Government's radical plans succeed. Business and managers in industry, commerce and the public sector must all play their part: Government resolve to support massively increasing management education at all levels is also essential. Perhaps Mr Baker could start with including business studies in the curriculum?

Peter Benton, Management House, Cottenham Road, Cottenham, Cambridge.

## Reducing the poll tax

From Dr R. Reisler

Sir, Having listened to all the discussions about the merits and demerits of the forthcoming poll tax as an alternative to the rates and of the possibility of disallowing mortgage interest relief, I wondered whether it had occurred to anybody that if both situations were combined the net result would be that those with houses and a mortgage would cease to claim their relief while the poll tax could be reduced to reasonable levels.

Richard Burden, District Officer, National and Local Government Officers' Association, 7th Floor Tower Block, City Centre, 7, Hill St, Birmingham.

## An arresting juxtaposition

From Mr B. Fish

Sir, — There is an arresting juxtaposition of reports in your issue of June 29.

In the first, Mr Knapp of the National Union of Railways advocates the employment of 10,000 extra staff to reduce complaints. As a much-travelled rail passenger, my imagination boggles at the thought of even more people standing around apparently indifferent to the long running of the service, and, in many cases, resenting all enquiries about the problems.

In the second, you report the ending of the severance scheme for dockers in Liverpool. In its third term, this Government must repeat (with compensatory provisos) the Dockwork Regulation Act, by which a few over 10,000 men are taken outside all normal employment legislation.

Brian H. Fish, 14 Stoke Hill, Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

## Privatising water

From Mr R. Burden

Sir, — I read with interest (July 1) the chairman of Severn Trent Water Authority's defence of Government plans to split up and sell off Britain's water service. Mr Bellak's political loyalty to the Government on this matter is really quite touching—particularly as he appears to be virtually alone within the water industry in both his interpretation of and support for the Ridley privatisation plan.

Our report includes a draft Parliamentary Bill, ready to introduce the legislation needed to implement our recommendations. The problem raised with you illustrates once again that this is a reform which many property owners need.

Trevor M. Aldridge, Law Commission, 37-39 Johns Street, WC1.



# FINANCIAL TIMES

Monday July 6 1987



Roderick Oram  
on Wall Street

## A rich diversity of views

AS WALL STREET trudges back to work this morning after another festive Independence Day weekend, some people may shudder at the memory of the cold bath they had this day a year ago. The exuberant market mood which had led up to the Spectacular Rededication of the Statue of Liberty turned instantly as gloom as the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 62 points.

One man, more than any other guru, was responsible for the dousing. Mr John Mendelson, head of research at Dean Witter, had spent the weekend mulling over the market as he sailed on a Vermont lake. The highly respected market timer passed on his very bearish conclusions to his clients first thing Monday morning and the news spread like wildfire.

It was a rocky start to the stock market's difficult second half of last year. The Dow Industrials made no further progress, on balance, through the rest of the year and suffered some stunning setbacks on the way, particularly the 120 point drop on September 11, 12 in an avalanche of trading.

While opinions vary widely on where stocks will be at the end of this year's second half, concern about an equally turbulent time is shared by many analysts.

The market is vulnerable to a huge sell-off with a 300 point decline compressed into a few weeks, said Mr Michael Metz, managing director of Oppenheimer & Co. He believes that a correction will be triggered when a "long, overdue short-term change in psychology" pushes down derivative instruments such as stock index futures to a big discount to the cash market.

The role of stock index futures and other derivative instruments in last September's rout was not debated. The curiously exact Exchange Commission concluded it was not to blame for the collapse in share prices but it might have accelerated it.

Although the market will recover from the setback, it will have overall a slightly downward bias for the rest of the year. It has fully discounted all the known positives. Some spice will be added by an increase in takeovers, perhaps with Japanese suitors, but the correction will be triggered when a "long, overdue short-term change in psychology" pushes down derivative instruments such as stock index futures to a big discount to the cash market.

Mr Larry Wachtel, a Prudential-Bache market analyst, similarly expects a rough patch, probably during the third quarter when prices could fall some 8 or 9 per cent in the second quarter.

By year-end, though, the Dow Industrials could be around 2,600, gain some 200 points in the second half, he predicts. He, too, sees the advance narrowly focused on the blue chips.

Such gains would be icing on this year's already rich cake. The Dow rose 522 points, or 27 per cent, in the first half. Most of that came in January's rock-bottom ascent and it rose only 4.8 per cent in the second quarter.

Broader market indices have performed similarly, although secondary stocks lagged to the rear in the three months with the American Stock Exchange composite index rising only 1.6 per cent and the Nasdaq over-the-counter index falling 1.3 per cent.

Typical of the generally favourable outlook is the forecast from Merrill Lynch. It sees the Dow hitting 3,000 in the next 12 to 18 months, although it expects "modest" interest rate increases in the interim which could be as severe as a 15 per cent correction. It argues that further rises will be fuelled by growing profits.

Thus while the stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 index are trading at 19.2 times estimated 1987 earnings, they look better value in terms of their 15.7 times forecasted profits.

While one bear has gone into hibernation through this past year's bullishness, Mr Mendelson has stuck to his charts, judging by his writings. He has proved increasingly reluctant to talk to the press, but many of his loyal followers say he has given them good advice about how to play the markets despite his negative overall view.

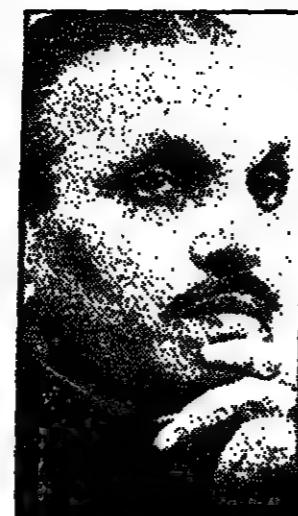
The other man of unwavering confidence is Mr Robert Prechter but he stands at the opposite extreme. Currently one of the most closely followed forecasters, his studies of Elliott Wave theories of investor psychology still point to a 3,600 top to the great bull market near the end of next year.

The present "corrective or choppy" phase should give way by mid to late August to an extremely powerful acceleration on the upside, he foresees, with blue chips far outperforming secondary stocks.

He may be right. His predictions from the lakeside home-cum-office in rural Georgia. But Wall Street need have no fear he took to the water over the weekend. He planned to spend it on shore writing his monthly newsletter.

John Elliott explains why Pakistani ministers are obliged to do penance

## Zia sidesteps blame for budget



TEN YEARS after General Zia ul-Haq, President of Pakistan, seized power in a military coup, his government recently suffered the unusual humiliation of being forced by public demonstrations and political protests to withdraw its annual budget and put forward alternative measures for tackling the country's endemic public deficit problem.

That characteristic political skill developed since his coup 10 years ago yesterday. President Zia avoided any blame for the embarrassing fiasco, and stayed in the background. It was Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister, who took the flak and withdrew the proposed budget on the 20th, rapidly producing a slightly smaller alternative for the original Rs 175bn (Rs 2.25bn) budget.

Faced with a need for higher government revenues and lower spending, Mr Junejo is doing a penance. He and other ministers and officials are ostentatiously driving around in small cars and are foregoing first class airline seats. There are also other, more scarcely skinning the surface of Pakistan's under-funded overspending which produced an overall budget deficit in 1986-87 of Rs 45bn, 8 per cent of GDP.

Perhaps significantly for a country which has been under direct or indirect military rule for 10 years, it was the imposition of a "defence tax" surcharge on the budget that triggered the censure. It was a cumulative 5 per cent surcharge on imports, excise duty, and income tax, which would ultimately boost prices of some goods by over 15 per cent. Retail prices, including bottles of soft drinks on a day when temperatures were above 100F, were sharply and takes 21 per cent.

So the defence surcharge was a desperate attempt by bureaucrats to deal with the country's serious problem of resource mobilisation. Its aim was to raise substantial funds within an extremely narrow tax base, which were required for political expediency, and a corrupt collection system.

Pakistan's other major indicators are buoyant. There is sustained economic growth at 6 to 8.5 per cent, although this might be hit by recent rains harming the crucial wheat crop. Inflation until the budget was initially soared by up to 30 per cent or more, and street protests be-

take up 26 per cent of the current expenditure budget. It amounts to 6.8 per cent of GDP, roughly the same as spending on development and, although lower than the other big drains on the exchequer, debt servicing, which has been rising sharply and takes 21 per cent.

But most serious of all is the growing deficit, up to 8 per cent of GDP this year from 5 per cent in 1981-82, and causing growing domestic and foreign debt problems.

Domestic savings, in a consumer-oriented Muslim country with no cultural tradition of saving, amount to only 14 per



Exports, boosted by demand for cotton, are rising this year by 17 to 18 per cent and imports are declining at about 7 per cent. But this could change dramatically next year with export growth possibly falling by 10 per cent. A new three-year trade policy was announced on Monday in an attempt to sustain the improvements.

The Pakistan economy, heavily supported by US aid, puzzles many observers, including economists. Every time you

come to light in a story published in today's issue of *DataLink*, a computer software magazine.

Midland Bank said yesterday that the review document was written in March or April and represented the views of a group of systems staff. It was over-stated and did not reflect the views of Midland Montagu's management, Midland said.

It pointed out yesterday that the review predicted Midland Montagu's move to a new HQ in London's old Billingsgate fish market, and a number of other initiatives taken to improve

Mr Alan Macdonald, a Midland spokesman, said it was "absurd and ridiculous" to suggest that Midland had any intention of pulling out of investment banking because of systems deficiencies.

The review document said that Midland Montagu's systems were "critically deficient". Midland Montagu would cease to be a key player in the investment banking industry if its systems were not improved, the review concluded.

Details of the document have

come to light in a story published in today's issue of *DataLink*, a computer software magazine.

Mr Macdonald confirmed that there were areas of weakness, particularly in the back-office at Greenwell Montagu, the group's stockbroking arm.

Mr Macdonald said, however, that the systems problems at Greenwell were "not really any different from what you would find in any stockbroker's office".

"All the effort was geared towards Big Bang and market-making, rather than to the settlement side," he added. "Now the back-office is being brought into line with the front office."

Midland Montagu was launched on February 23 with a staff of 3,000 people. Midland created it from a union between the bank's group Treasury division, Samuel Montagu, its merchant bank, and W. Greenwell, the stockbroker which the bank bought before Big Bang.

The review also suggested that Midland Montagu was far too dependent on outside contractors and that the current level of permanent staff was "inadequate to support existing systems let alone new developments."

Greenwell Montagu pulled out of market-making in equities in March after running up heavy losses since Big Bang.

According to *DataLink*, the systems review assessed 14 systems at Midland Montagu and found that nine were "unatisfactory".

The document's significance appears to be that it demonstrates the kind of problems which many of the City's new financial conglomerates have faced in integrating disparate and potentially incompatible computer systems in the months before and after Big Bang.

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## SECTION II - COMPANIES AND MARKETS

# FINANCIAL TIMES

Monday July 6 1987

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### INTERNATIONAL BONDS

## US Treasury climbdown only makes waters murkier

THE US Treasury might have hoped that its announcement on Tuesday would lift the confusion which prevailed in the dollar sector of the Eurobond market for most of last week. It seems only to have succeeded in making the waters murkier, writes Stephen Eddle in London.

As is now well known, a Treasury decision announced on Monday to terminate a tax treaty with the Netherlands Antilles turned at a stroke an estimated \$30bn of Eurobonds into huge potential liabilities for US corporate issuers. It would have added a 30 per cent US government withholding tax on all interest payments made by the US companies.

On Thursday, the Treasury partly reversed that move and said it would back legislation to preserve the existing tax position of the bonds.

That has left many of the US companies which issued Eurobonds before July 1984 through Netherlands Antilles finance subsidiaries stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Three US companies, Caterpillar, RJR-Nabisco and Bank of Boston, last week gave notices that they

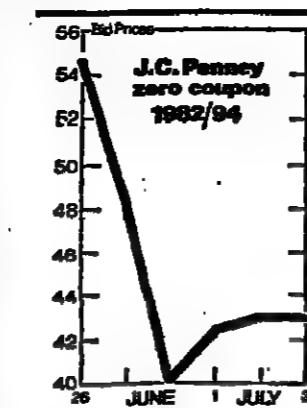
would exercise their rights under clauses in their bond agreements to call issues for early redemption. The Treasury's support of the so-called "grandfather" legislation would make no difference to their decision.

In fact the wording of these prospectuses varies greatly. Tough clauses do not allow bonds to be called until the tax treatment of the bonds actually changes. Assuming the Treasury succeeds in winning passage for its legislation, companies with these clauses in their bond agreements will not be able to call them.

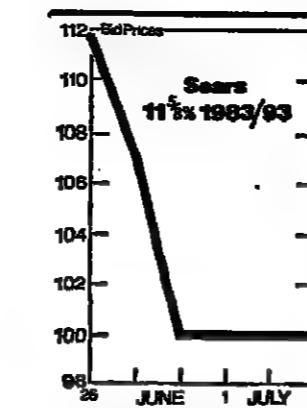
Other bonds carry much softer wording, however. Some clauses appear to allow calls if there is a significant increase in the chances of a change in the bonds' tax status.

These companies are now being subjected to a barrage of pressure from investors and Eurobond issuing houses. Credit Suisse First Boston, for example, has sent a strongly-worded telex to issuers of bonds it has brought to market advising them not to call.

In a statement, the International Primary Market Association, the trade association which groups Eurobond issuing houses, said: "It



Source: Salomon Brothers



Source: Salomon Brothers

would be responsible for all concerned to defer taking action."

Mr Hans-Joerg Emhoff, deputy chairman of Credit Suisse First Boston, describes the calling of bonds under these circumstances as an opportunistic action which will carry a very heavy penalty for the future." His opinion is that the names of the companies which do call will be shunned by Euro-investors.

Most fixed-rate issues are at coupons higher than those now prevailing and potential savings are large. This is true particularly of many zero coupon bonds, prices of which

crumbled in dramatic fashion early last week.

Some investment bankers in Europe are making light of the possibility of shareholder suits, saying they would be without merit in view of the opprobrium which issuers would face if they redeemed the bonds. But they would say that, wouldn't they?

How many of the bonds affected carry this "sober" wording is hard to say. Eurobond market guessimates were suggesting on Friday that about half of the bonds, up to \$15bn, may still be callable. What is certain is that the market in these issues, which in all intents and purposes ceased to exist last week, is now entering a period of limbo which could last for six months. Perhaps again the poor Euro-investor who stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Pity too for anybody unlucky enough to have used one of these callable issues in an asset swap, the unwinding of which could begin to look rather messy.

The Treasury's partial climbdown clearly came after strong pressure from Wall Street and other quarters, and whatever happened internally the department does not

emerge looking particularly good.

Two schools of thought exist - one prefers the misjudgment scenario, the other the breakdown of internal communication version.

The first suggests the Treasury was aware there would be a significant impact on the Eurobond market, but underestimated the outcry which would follow. The thought is that the move would be popular with US companies, the major beneficiaries, might have influenced its decision.

The second version suggests that the decision was taken by one department without reference to the Treasury's market experts. In this case, one is left wondering what hope there is for international cooperation over securities market operations, when one section of the US Treasury fails to talk these matters over with another.

Elsewhere, the most remarkable event of the week was the predictable deterioration of the market in Japanese equity warrant bonds. It took just a couple of weeks of faltering on the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the usual excessive issuing fervour that typifies the Eurobond market.

## A.H. Robins in \$2.6bn merger agreement with Rorer Group

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

A.H. ROBINS, the US healthcare company operating under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code, and Rorer Group, the US pharmaceutical manufacturer, have signed a letter of intent to pursue a definitive merger agreement before July 31.

The Rorer proposal, which comes after several months of talks, is valued at about \$2.6bn.

The agreement provides for two trusts, with a total value of \$1.75bn, to be established to pay claims related to the Dalkon Shield, the intrauterine device. It also provides for all of Robins' non-Dalkon Shield claims, estimated at about \$120m, to be satisfied substantially as set out in Robins' present plan of reorganisation.

Under the deal each Robins common share would be exchanged for one share of a new series of Rorer

convertible preferred with a stated value of \$30, or 0.625 Rorer common shares, if the market value of Rorer common is \$48 or greater.

The merger agreement would be subject to approval by Rorer's shareholders. Then it would be incorporated in Robins' existing plan of bankruptcy reorganisation and the plan submitted to Robins' creditors and shareholders for a vote and would be subject to confirmation by the US Bankruptcy Court in Richmond, Virginia.

Robins attracted other takeover interest earlier this year. American Home Products discussed a merger with the company and more recently, Dow Chemical's pharmaceutical unit said it would be interested in buying some of Robins' well-known main brands.

## Ontario launches insider trading investigation

BY ROBERT GIBBONS IN MONTREAL

THE Ontario Securities Commission is investigating allegations of insider trading involving the improper transfer of information between institutional investors and traders at securities dealers.

The investigation essentially covers allegations of "front running" where a trader for a securities firm knows an institution's plans for a major share purchase and then buys a relatively small amount of the stock in advance. The profit is made by the trader when he sells his shares to the institution.

The dealers' role in such financials would be more strictly regulated, especially in marketing secondary issues. All prospectuses for primary issues would include a disclosure document advising investors of the risks of investing in junior resource stocks.

## British borrowers focus on short-term credit rearrangements

BRITISH borrowers restructuring their short-term funding arrangements have focused heavily in the credits market so far this year, and a string of large deals is still emerging, writes Alexander Nicol in London.

Only a few months after Burton, the UK clothing retailer, arranged a £600m (\$842m) facility, the company's consumer financing subsidiary is arranging an even larger multi-option facility. Of the £500m five-year financing for Burton Group Financial Services being arranged by Bank of Scotland, Foreign & Colonial, GEC, Morgan Grenfell and the company's management, it plans to buy UK residential mortgages from other lenders and hold them prior to securitisation, and the standby

points, compared with 10 for the parent. The facility fees are also higher, at 12 basis points on the half immediately available to be drawn and 6 basis points on the "unavailable" portion above £100m.

BTR, the industrial holding company, is understood to be the next major borrower in this market, with a mandate expected shortly for a £500m multi-option facility.

A £150m standby credit is being sought for First Mortgage Services, a new company owned by Bank of Scotland, Foreign & Colonial, GEC, Morgan Grenfell and the company's management. It plans to buy UK residential mortgages from other lenders and hold them prior to securitisation, and the standby

will back this activity.

Morgan Grenfell is arranging but not participating in the five year credit, which has a standby fee of 12.5 basis points and drawings at a maximum of 22.5 basis points above £100m.

The Eurocredit market's attention last week was mainly focussed on two continental deals for Portugal's Companhia Nacional de Petróquimica and Italy's Autostade, the state motorway construction

ers is about 12 basis points.

Though the average life of both tranches is 3½ years, some bankers were put off by the long maturity of the Ecu portion and by the level of return. However, the borrower is a relatively rare visitor to the market. Bankers Trust and Mitsubishi Bank are the mandated bankers.

Clipco's \$350m credit for SHV Holdings, the Dutch energy and consumer goods concern, received subscriptions totalling \$143m but will not be increased. Swiss Bank Corporation International has upped a \$150m credit for Whirlpool Acceptance of the US to \$185m. An increase in the floating rate half of the Bank of Greece's £200m loan is to be proposed to the borrower.

### EUROMARKET TURNOVER Turnover (\$m)

Primary Market		Corporate	FRN	Other
URB	1,200.1	400.0	400.0	500.0
Prov	3,250.5	222.7	—	4,272.3
Other	2,822.8	5.8	80.0	599.2
Prev	2,198.5	85.1	—	582.5

Secondary Market		Corporate	Total
URB	26,412.8	2,000.2	10,882.8
Prov	57,052.5	2,028.2	14,832.8
Other	24,518.0	1,241.3	6,880.7
Prev	18,281.1	1,822.8	4,477.8

Week to July 2 1987

Source: ABDO

These Bonds having been sold outside the Cayman Islands and Great Britain, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

New Issue

July 1987

## Polly Peck International Finance Limited

(Incorporated in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies)

Swiss Francs 65,000,000  
3% Convertible Guaranteed Bonds 1987-1997

guaranteed by and convertible into Ordinary Shares of



## Polly Peck International PLC

(Incorporated in England and Wales)

S.G. Warburg Soditic SA

Banca Commerciale Italiana (Suisse)

Bank S.G. Warburg Soditic AG

Banque Indosuez, Succursale de Suisse

Chase Manhattan Bank (Switzerland)

Crédit des Bèrges

Grindlays Bank p.l.c.

(a member of ANZ group)

Samuel Montagu (Suisse) S.A.

Security Pacific (Switzerland) S.A.

Chemical NY Capital Market Corporation

DaIwa Finanz AG

INGEBA Internationale Genossenschaftsbank AG

The Royal Bank of Canada (Suisse)

Unigestion S.A.

BIL Banque Internationale à Luxembourg (Suisse) S.A.

Bank Oppenheim Pierson (Schweiz) AG

Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank (Schweiz) AG

Great Pacific Capital

Huttinger & Cie

Mitsubishi Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.

Mitsui Finanz (Schweiz) AG

Sanwa Finanz (Schweiz) AG

Sumitomo Trust Finance (Switzerland) Limited

Volkswagen AG

## TeleSat

TéléSat Canada

## TELESAT CANADA

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

Can. \$75,000,000

10½% Debentures due 1994

Issue Price: 101½%

McLeod Young Weir International Limited Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

BankAmerica Capital Markets Group

Bank of Tokyo International Limited

Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A.

CIBC Capital Markets

Crédit Lyonnais

Dresdner Bank Aktiengesellschaft

Goldman Sachs International Corp.

Shearson Lehman Brothers International

Toronto Dominion International Limited

Swiss Bank Corporation International Limited

July 1987

## INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

## UK GILTS

## Bank clears way for warrants

THE BANK of England's circulation last week of its paper on the issue of gilt warrants came as welcome proof that the UK Government bond market is moving forward in terms of sophistication, if not in price.

The paper, in itself, did not come as a tremendous surprise to those primary dealers and other institutions which have already been bombarded for years with offers of ever more baroque hedging and speculative instruments by the world's securities giants.

This is the last thing needed for the evolution of a liquid market, particularly as there is a degree of ignorance and even fear of new instruments among British institutions.

This probably means issuing houses will concentrate on foreign investors who have already been bombarded for years with offers of ever more baroque hedging and speculative instruments by the world's securities giants.

Warrants can either be issued

on their own merits or attached to debt issues, such as new Eurobonds. Japanese investors, for example, who are attracted by trading in gilts but are concerned about any currency risk, could be ready purchasers.

In other words, the Bank has laid down a prudent framework for the issue of warrants and it is now up to securities firms and any who are interested to decide on how they will tailor their business to whatever demand there may be for these instruments.

It seems clear that the kind of outfit who will be first to try their hand at issuing warrants will be those already convenient with writing options and warrants in the US Treasury bond market, or the US Treasury bond market in the US

for example. Names like Salomon Brothers and Credit Suisse First Boston spring to mind as those having the sophisticated computer programmes needed to back up options and warrants business.

The first issues could emerge as soon as July 20 when the requisite Stock Exchange rules come into effect. It is impossible at this stage to say how securities houses will play it.

There could be a rush of issues as houses scramble to be the first into the game to boost their image as innovative, sophisticated players in the market for world securities.

On the other hand, a combination of the newness of gilt warrants and a market which has languished ever since the election could persuade potential issuers to hold off until conditions are more buoyant.

There is a danger that before a fully-blown secondary market emerges—if it does—an issue in these vulnerable conditions could leave investors wanting to sell on their warrants and not being able to, so building an immediate prejudice against them.

## US MONEY AND CREDIT

## Optimistic interest rate outlook

THE US credit markets were in better cheer last week, thanks to good news about the economy and a firm dollar. But activity was thin and traders' hearts were not really in it.

Some were holding off until this week's Federal Reserve governors' meeting or waiting for political signals from Washington. Others, no less productively, were fighting their way to Grand Central in good time for Friday's Independence Day holiday.

As it turned out, most prices rose fractionally with the benchmark 8.1 per cent Treasury long bond climbing half a point to 103 to yield 8.44 per cent.

Municipals were up about a point and corporates—excluding the Eurodollar sector, which had its own problems—were also ahead.

The week was short and calm and some traders spent it gazing at bits of paper, which could quite an optimistic short-term outlook for interest rates. The background tone was set by the foreign exchange markets. The dollar was firmest most of the week and hit a three-month high against the Japanese yen in Tokyo on Thursday. It ended the week in New York, trading at \$1.475.

Thursday's labour market report showed employment growing only very slowly in June. It also revised the May figures sharply downwards.

Monetary growth ticked up last week but is still modest. As Mr Henry Kaufman, chief economist of Salomon Brothers, put it: "Were it not for ongoing concern about the dollar, the recent slow growth in employment would be in the monetary aggregates might seem to be political uncertainty."

For the next few weeks, there could be any amount of mischief from the capital, arising out of Col North's testimony this week or the usual fight

between the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) to ease policy a notch when it meets for its midyear review of monetary targets."

The more bullish view holds that last week's softness in the Federal Funds rate showed that the Fed is already unwinding the small tightening of monetary policy undertaken when the dollar was weak in April. The Fed Funds rate is a short-term rate often held to reflect Fed policy.

A number of money market economists are not happy with this picture. Mr Kaufman himself says that with the trade deficit still substantial an easier stance might threaten to send the dollar lower. The small growth in unemployment, amounting to less than 100,000 a month over two months, may reflect cutbacks in production to shrink the mammoth inventories as a hedge rather than using warrants.

One argument in favour of warrants to hedge more exactly is that it is difficult to hedge completely effectively through futures except at the long end where the long contract is extremely liquid. Presumably, however, at the right price, market makers could go for warrants as a hedge rather than using warrants.

The prospect of a fully-developed secondary market in warrants throws up the question of the role of inter-dealer brokers and stock exchanges.

Brokerage houses, who would

provide screen prices and borrowing facilities, as far as the IDEs are concerned, one presumes

any increase in the use of their screens by market-makers can only be good news.

Janet Bush



## HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

£300,000,000

## Revolving Multicurrency Facility

Arranged by

MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK

Lead Managed by

MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK

COMMERZBANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT  
LONDON BRANCH  
THE DAI-ICHI KANGYO BANK, LIMITED  
BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS p.l.c.  
THE FUJI BANK, LIMITED  
THE MITSUBISHI BANK, LIMITED

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO  
THE SUMITOMO BANK, LIMITED  
CHASE INVESTMENT BANK  
THE INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN, LIMITED

SWISS BANK CORPORATION  
THE BANK OF TOKYO, LTD.  
DEUTSCHE BANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT  
LONDON BRANCH  
THE KYOWA BANK, LTD.  
THE SAITAMA BANK, LTD.

ALGEMENE BANK NEDERLAND N.V.  
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LONDON BRANCH

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Funds provided by

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THE SUMITOMO BANK, LIMITED  
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LONDON BRANCH  
THE KYOWA BANK, LTD.  
THE SAITAMA BANK, LTD.  
BARCLAYS BANK PLC

THE MITSUBISHI BANK, LIMITED  
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LONDON OFFICE

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BANCA NAZIONALE DEL LAVORO  
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LONDON BRANCH

Agent:  
MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK

July, 1987

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

stories built up earlier in the year—above all by the motor industry.

The labour figures for June also showed the unemployment rate falling to 6.1 per cent, which some economists feel is close to the "natural" rate for a smoothly-running economy.

A fall could start generating wage pressures, which would be reflected in the credit market by higher yields to compensate for inflationary fears.

With the unemployment rate close to 6 per cent, attempts to stimulate the economy could threaten progress on inflation, Mr Kaufman says.

Mr Sam Kahan, economist at Kleinwort Benson in Chicago, sees the economy faltering along with "enough weakness to show no boom is coming and enough strength to show there is not going to be a recession." He sees no call for any easing by the Fed.

Although it is scarcely courteous to describe Mr Paul Volcker as a lame-duck Chairman, that is what or rather what he is. "Mr Volcker will sit at the back of the room," says Mr David Jones, money-market economist at Ambrey Lanston.

Both economists

attribute the weakness in the Fed Funds rate to technical factors with no significance for Fed policy.

One hindrance to the slow improvement in the market could be political uncertainty.

The drastic if temporary reshuffle last week to a small mishap on a building site at the US Embassy in Kuwait suggests that the markets are very wary about what Washington might get up to in the Gulf.

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could be any amount of mischief from the capital, arising out of Col North's testimony this week or the usual fight

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points, because many of the some \$30bn in bonds carried clauses allowing refinancing in case of a change in the tax regime.

On Thursday, the Treasury retreated and said it would ask Congress to allow the bonds to retain their tax-exempt status. Some companies have still come into the market, notably the Eurobond market, but the Eurobond market was sending some pretty unequivocal signals: any US borrower which called its bonds would find an ugly reception next time it came to market.

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US MONEY MARKET RATES (%)						
	Last Friday	1 week	4 weeks	12 weeks	1 year	Yield
Fed Funds (weekly average)	6.47					

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*and one of the largest in the world.*

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## QUE VOUS POUVEZ IMAGINER

*you can imagine*

## ET D'AUTRES ENCORE

*and some*

## AUXQUELS VOUS N'AVEZ JAMAIS PENSÉ.

*that even the City hasn't thought of yet.*

## EN 1986, SES BÉNÉFICES SE SONT ACCRUS DE 20%.

*Last year, it increased its profits by 20%.*

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*To read all about it,*

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## INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS and COMPANIES

### Siemens sees lower earnings this year

BY HAIG SIMONIAN IN FRANKFURT

TURNOVER at Siemens, the West German electronics group, rose by 12 per cent to DM 33bn (\$18m) in the first eight months of the present business year ending on September 30.

However, earnings for the year as a whole will not reach last year's level, said Mr Karlheinz Kasko, the chief executive. Profits at the eight-month stage had been depressed by the flagrant German economy and weak international demand, as well as the strength of the D-Mark.

The business trends "have been somewhat worse than we and others expected," he noted. "The environment has changed dramatically."

Nevertheless, the company expects order levels to be stable at around DM 50bn and 12 months' turnover to rise by about 10 per cent to DM 51.5bn.

Prospects for the coming 1987-88 business year remained "optimistic," said Mr Kasko. Sales should exceed DM 60bn, partly thanks to two new nuclear power stations made by KWU, a Siemens subsidiary, while orders are also expected to rise.

The company was sticking to its aim of at least keeping pace with the world electronics industry's annual 6 to 7 per cent growth rate, he added.

The group, which has about DM 20bn in liquid funds, has no acquisition for capital raising plans on the horizon. "We don't plan anything in the foreseeable future. Never the less, having this money doesn't do us any harm," said Mr Heribald Neher, finance director.

Mr Kasko would not be drawn about rumoured heavy losses at Siemens' medical electronics and microchip divisions this year, which badly dented its share price last week.

But he confirmed that not every line of business had been profitable, and admitted that the company's heavy investment in new microchip

production facilities had still to show a substantial return.

Domestic turnover rose in the eight months ended May 31 by 20 per cent to DM 18.7bn, largely due to the inclusion of work at the Brakel nuclear power station. Otherwise, the figure would have been 3 per cent.

Foreign turnover went up by 5 per cent to DM 16.3bn. The figure, which includes new acquisitions, would otherwise have been 5 per cent lower, largely on account of the strength of the D-Mark.

New orders of DM 33.8bn for the first eight months remained the same as the corresponding period

last year. Domestic orders fell by 3 per cent to DM 15.7bn, while international demand picked up by 3 per cent to DM 18.1bn.

Some 10,000 Siemens employees are now on short time, said Mr Kasko, up from 3,500 in January. Overall capacity utilisation has fallen to 81 per cent from an average 84 per cent in the previous business year.

Fixed investment would probably rise by between DM 300m to DM 400m to peak at DM 5.6bn this year. Research and development spending would go up by at least DM 300m this year to DM 800m, well above the industry average.

### France seeks ways to manage small portfolios

BY GEORGE GRAHAM IN PARIS

FRANCE's Finance Ministry is seeking new ways of managing the wave of demand for shares in the country's newly-privatised companies and of coping with the small and fragmented portfolios that the privatisation programme has created.

Mr Edouard Balladur, the Finance Minister, has asked the French banks' association and his own officials to examine ways of setting up a new form of mutual fund which would take over the administration of the tiny allocations of shares that investors have received.

A typical investor who has subscribed systematically to each privatisation issue would have a portfolio including four shares of Paribas, now worth FF 487 each, a single share in Banque du Département et des Travaux Publics at FF 141 and one and a half shares in Banque Industrielle et Mobilière Privée, at FF 180 per share.

Banks which were initially enthusiastic about the princely commissions they received for handling share applications

have now become disenchanted with the costs of administering the millions of small portfolios in the privatisation campaign that is winding up in its wake.

The privatised companies have had to take special measures to cope with a highly-dispersed shareholder list which they can contact for the most part only through the banks or brokers who handled the original share application.

The idea of setting up a special form of mutual fund, however, appears to present almost insuperable difficulties and has received a sceptical response from the privatised companies themselves.

The main problem is the free shares offered to investors who hold on to their stakes for at least 18 months. This is a strictly personal entitlement which would normally be lost if the shares were passed on to a mutual fund.

The third successive annual increase in the bank's earnings reflected the country's economic recovery last year, when real GDP grew by more than 2.5 per cent following 0.9 per cent growth in 1985, according to the bank's annual report.

### Ivory Coast bank lifts profits

BY PETER BLACKBURN IN ABIDJAN

SOCIETE GENERALE de Banque en Côte d'Ivoire, the Ivory Coast's largest bank with more than one-third of the country's deposits, increased net profits by 33 per cent to CFA 1.7bn (\$7.5m) and maintained a dividend of 10 per cent for the year to September 30, 1986.

The third successive annual increase in the bank's earnings reflected the country's economic recovery last year, when real GDP grew by more than 2.5 per cent following 0.9 per cent growth in 1985, according to the bank's annual report.

The sharp growth in earnings comes despite a further big increase of 40 per cent in provisions for non-performing loans.

To strengthen further its financial position and to celebrate its 25th anniversary, SCBCI increased its capital by one-third to CFA 8bn (\$26.5m) in February and offered shareholders one free share for every three shares held.

However, SCBCI warns about a "disturbing" drop in prices during the latter part of 1986 which affected nearly all the country's agricultural exports. Average prices of palm oil,

cocoa and cotton fell by 52 per cent, 42 per cent and 39 per cent respectively.

The continued fall in commodity prices is expected to cause a \$1.5bn fall in the Ivory Coast's export earnings during the 1986-87 season and a 1 per cent decline in the economy.

As a result, SCBCI, in which France's Société Générale has a stake of about one-third, may find it difficult to maintain last year's progress, analysts say. SCBCI's lending rose by 14 per cent to CFA 453.8bn (\$1.4bn) while deposits rose by just under 8 per cent to CFA 185.8bn (\$653m) in 1986.

### Hoogovens buys German steel stake

HOOGOVENS, the Dutch steelmaker, has agreed to acquire 50 per cent of Hiller and Müller, a family-owned, West German steel group, for a undisclosed price, Reuters reports.

Hiller and Müller has annual revenues of around DM 650m (\$360m) and operates steel coating and processing facilities in West Germany and the US. Hoogovens said its longstanding client-supplier relationship with Hiller was "the basis for the more intensive co-operation."

Hoogovens added that the Hiller participation will further enhance and extend the range of products the Dutch company can offer in higher value-added products in the processed and coated steel markets.

It said the acquisition of the Hiller share in Hiller would be paid for out of F1.836m (\$40.08m) of capital expenditures authorised so far for 1987.

That amount will also cover the recent agreement by Hoogovens to acquire Kaiser Aluminium Europe in a deal that is expected to be completed some time this quarter.

NEW INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES							
Borrower	Amount m.	Maturity	Av. life years	Coupon %	Price	Book Run	Offer price %
US DOLLARS							
Kopin Corp. \$‡	25	1982	5	1%	100	Mitsui Int.	1.375
Chase Corp. Fin. \$‡	75	1997	10	5%	100	Kidder Peabody Int.	1.350
Michelin Corp. \$‡	100	1992	5	1%	100	Mitsui Sac. (Europe)	1.375
Michelin Corp. \$‡	50	1984	7	2%	100	Yamada Int. (East)	1.375
Okuma Corp. \$‡	100	1992	5	1%	100	Daikin Europe	1.375
Shingenekei Fin. \$‡	50	1992	5	1%	100	Yamada Int. (East)	1.375
Yamada Int. Fin. \$‡	100	1992	5	1%	100	Mitsui Sac. (Europe)	1.375
Japan Shokai \$‡	200	1992	5	1%	100	Daikin Europe	1.375
Transocean Corp. \$‡	500	1992	5	1%	100	Mitsui Int.	1.350
Moix Or \$‡	100	1992	5	5%	100	Mitsui Sac.	1.375
Reico Co. \$‡	130	2002	15	5%	100	Kleinwort Benson	1.375
Motor Corp. \$‡	30	2002	15	5%	100	J. H. Salvador Wragg	1.375
Endast Corp. \$‡	50	2002	15	5%	100	Shawmut Leamore Br.	1.375
Central Finance Corp. \$‡	100	1992	5	1%	100	Mitsui Int.	1.375
C. Ich. (d) \$‡	200	1992	5	2 1/4%	100	Pro Bache Cap. Funding	1.375
Carpo Int'l. \$‡	100	1992	5	2 1/4%	100.1	Mitsui Sac. (Europe)	1.375
Osaka Cement \$‡	100	1992	5	2 1/4%	100		
CANADIAN DOLLARS							
Societe Fin. Cpt. Min. \$‡	100	1992	5	5 1/2%	101 1/2	Societe Fin. Int.	1.325
Montreal Bank \$‡	50	1997	10	5 1/2%	101	Morgan Guaranty	1.335
Montreal Bank Canada \$‡	10	1992	5	5 1/2%	101.5	Mitsui Fin. Int.	1.3125
World Bank \$‡	150	1992	5	5 1/2%	101 1/2	Woolf Secy	1.325
AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS							
Merlin Rock \$‡	50	1992	3	14%	101 1/2	Westpac Banking Corp.	13.350
Deutsche Bk Australia \$‡	125	1992	3	13%	101 1/2	Deutsche Bk. Min.	13.113
Gen. Landbank \$‡	50	1992	3	14%	101 1/2	Westpac Pacific	13.414
U.S. DOLLARS							
EBI \$‡	200	1995	8	8 1/2%	99 1/2	WestLB	8.750
Hougan \$‡	150	1993	8	8 1/2%	100	Deutsche Bank	8.750
Europ. \$‡	100	1993	8	8 1/2%	100	WestLB	8.750
SWISS FRANCS							
St. Gervais Resources \$‡	25 mil	1992	—	5 1/2%	100	Swiss Indesec	5.951
TNT Ltd.	100	1995	—	(5)	100	Credit Suisse	5.950
Sabre Credit \$‡	100	1992	—	5%	100	Credit Suisse	5.950
Mitsubishi Oil \$‡	150	1993	—	(5)	100	Credit Suisse	5.950
Morgan Keegan \$‡	80	1992	—	4 1/2%	100	Deutsche Bk. K.D.	4.710
DKD \$‡	150	1997	—	4 1/2%	100	WestLB	4.710
Indonesia Sugars \$‡	100	1992	—	4 1/2%	100	Swiss Indesec	4.710
Huon Co. \$‡	175	1992	—	(1)	—	Bank of Gotland	—
FRENCH FRANCS							
Portugal \$‡	700	1995	8	(4)	100.00	CCF	—
STERLING							
Land Securities \$‡	50	2002	15	5 1/2%	100	J. H. Salvador Wragg	8.750
EDS \$‡	150	1997	10	7 1/2%	101	Deutsche Europe	7.850
PESETAS							
Emtis \$‡	150	1997	10	12 1/2%	99.50	Morgan Guaranty	12.510
KWAIH DINARS							
World Bank \$‡	30	1994	7	7 1/2%	100	Mer. Bk. of Kuwait	7.500
YEN							
Kotak Int'l. \$‡	150	1992	5	5 1/2%	101 1/2	Mitsui Int.	5.025

\* Not yet priced. † Final terms. ‡ Private placement. § With equity warrants. || Convertible. || Floating rate note. || Currency-linked. (a) 20bp over 3m Libor. If over 25bp over Libor then 30bp over Libor. (b) With currency warrants. (c) 27/25bp over 3m Libor, additional \$30m on top. (d) Launched in Asia. (e) 1% over 3m Libor. Note: Yields are based on ABB basis.

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New Issue This announcement appears as a matter of record only May 1987



**New South Wales Treasury Corporation**  
(a statutory corporation constituted by the Treasury Corporation Act, 1983 of New South Wales)

**A\$100,000,000  
14 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Bonds due 1992**

Guaranteed by  
**The Crown in Right of New South Wales**

County NatWest Limited State Bank of New South Wales

Algemene Bank Nederland N.V. Bank of Tokyo International Limited  
Bankers Trust International Limited Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.  
Banque Nationale de Paris Baring Brothers & Co., Limited  
Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft Crédit Commercial de France  
Fay, Richwhite (U.K.) Ltd. Crédit Suisse First Boston Limited  
McCaughan Dyson & Co. Limited Deutsche Bank Capital Markets Limited  
Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited Girozentrale und Bank der österreichischen  
Prudential Bache Capital Funding Handelsbank NatWest (Overseas) Limited  
Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited F. van Lanschot Bankiers N.V.  
HandelsBank NatWest (Overseas) Limited LTCB International Limited  
Mitsubishi Finance International Limited Merrill Lynch Capital Markets  
The Nikko Securities Co. (Europe) Ltd. Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited  
Wood Gundy Inc. Morgan Stanley International  
Nippon Credit International Limited Orion Royal Bank Limited  
Sumitomo Finance International Svenska Handelsbanken Group  
S.G. Warburg Securities Westpac Banking Corporation  
Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited

New Issue This announcement appears as a matter of record only May 1987



**National Westminster Bank PLC**  
(Incorporated in England with limited liability)

**£100,000,000  
9 per cent. Deposit Notes 1992**

County NatWest Limited

Algemene Bank Nederland N.V. Bank of Tokyo International Limited  
Bankers Trust International Limited Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.  
Banque Nationale de Paris Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited  
Baring Brothers & Co., Limited Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft  
Crédit Commercial de France Crédit Lyonnais  
Crédit Suisse First Boston Limited Daiwa Europe Limited  
Deutsche Bank Capital Markets Limited Fuji International Finance Limited  
Girozentrale und Bank der österreichischen Goldman Sachs International Corp.  
Handelsbank NatWest (Overseas) Limited Kansallis-Osake-Pankki  
F. van Lanschot Bankiers N.V. Lloyds Merchant Bank Limited  
LTCB International Limited McLeod Young Weir International Limited  
Merrill Lynch Capital Markets Mitsui Finance International Limited  
Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited Morgan Guaranty Ltd  
Morgan Stanley International The Nikko Securities Co. (Europe) Ltd.  
Nippon Credit International Limited Nomura International Limited  
Orion Royal Bank Limited Prudential Bache Capital Funding  
Sumitomo Finance International Sumitomo Trust International Limited  
Svenska Handelsbanken Group Swiss Bank Corporation International Limited  
S.G. Warburg Securities Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale  
Westpac Banking Corporation Wood Gundy Inc.  
Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited

New Issue This announcement appears as a matter of record only July 1987



**NatWest Australia Bank Limited**  
(Incorporated with limited liability in the Commonwealth of Australia)

**A\$60,000,000  
13 1/8 per cent. Guaranteed Notes 1992**

Guaranteed by  
**National Westminster Bank PLC**  
(Incorporated with limited liability in England)

County NatWest Limited Orion Royal Bank Limited

Hambros Bank Limited Bain & Company  
Westpac Banking Corporation Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft Aktiengesellschaft  
Algemene Bank Nederland N.V. Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.  
Bankers Trust International Limited Baring Brothers & Co., Limited  
Banque Paribas Capital Markets Limited Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
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Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) Vereins- und Westbank  
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Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale

New Issue This announcement appears as a matter of record only July 1987



**Asian Development Bank**

County NatWest Limited

Mitsubishi Trust International Limited Nomura International Limited  
Algemene Bank Nederland N.V. Bank of Tokyo Capital Markets Limited  
Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A. Banque Nationale de Paris  
Banque Paribas Capital Markets Limited Baring Brothers & Co., Limited  
Chase Investment Bank Limited Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft  
Credit Suisse First Boston Limited Deutsche Bank Capital Markets Limited  
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**COUNTY NATWEST**  
The NatWest Investment Bank Group

## UK COMPANY NEWS

Richard Tomkins on the history of a hybrid offer for sale akin to the latest Government privatisation

## Why BAA may fear the tender trap

THE UNUSUAL fixed-price-cum-tender offer about to be used for the flotation of BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority) was widely hailed as unique when it was unveiled a fortnight ago. So it is, in that it will feature the first London equity tender where the price bid for the shares is the price actually paid.

Yet certain aspects of the offer's structure do have their antecedents in another hybrid issue not so long ago, and that attempt at getting the best of both worlds did not set a particularly encouraging example.

The case in point is Blagden Industries. This is not, as it sounds, a make-believe company from the Fosdyke Saga strip cartoon. It is a Hertfordshire-based manufacturer of steel drums, chemicals, protective equipment and plastic mouldings with a market valuation of £58m (29.28m x 203%).

Two years ago it was a much smaller company in which a New York-based conglomerate called City Investing held a 34 per cent stake. Then City Investing decided to wind itself up.

This had two consequences for Blagden. One was that a home had to be found for City Investing's stake, and the other was that Blagden had the opportunity to double its size by acquiring City Investing's substantial steel drum manufacturing businesses in Europe for £25m.

The problem was in doing both at the same time. City Investing's stake could fairly easily be placed with institutional investors, but since the acquisition was to large to wholly coincide with a very large issue of new Blagden equity and therefore put downward pressure on the value of City Investing's stake.

N. M. Rothschild, Blagden's merchant bank adviser, hit on a solution aimed at keeping City Investing happy. The US company's stake was placed at 112p, a substantial discount to the price of 130p at which Blagden's shares were suspended. Then it received 14.95m new Blagden shares (plus £9m cash) in exchange for its steel drum interests, and the shares were sold to the market on its behalf by Rothschild.

To compensate City Investing for the reduction in the value of the shares that had been placed, some 9m of the shares were sold in an ordinary offer for sale at a fixed price of 112p, but the other 5.95m shares—roughly equivalent to the number which had been

placed—were offered through a tender.

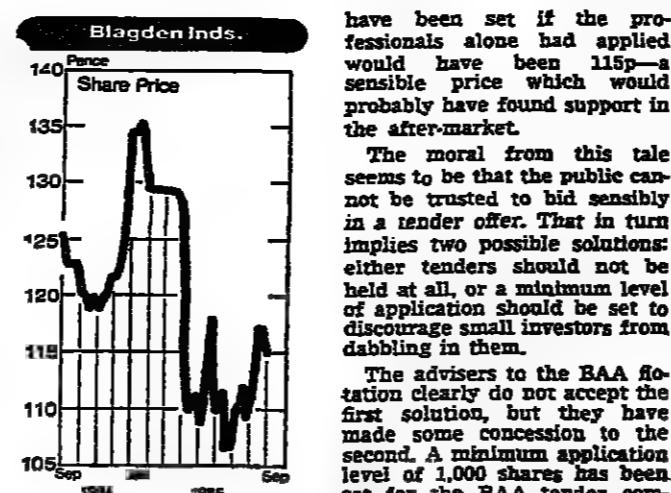
That way, the thinking went, City Investing would effectively receive full market value for the stake that had been placed.

A distinguishing feature of the tender was that the striking price was set not intellectually, as in conventional tenders, but, it was presumably, to try to set it well above a level which meant the tender was exactly subscribed. Rothschild was therefore left with no discretion to strike a lower price if it felt the bidding had gone unrealistically high.

This was the offer's undoing, for unrealistically high is just where the bidding went. Those connected with the issue recall how small investors poured into the tender with bids at 200p or more for shares. It should be recalled, which had been suspended, at 130p and which faced dilution because of the acquisition.

On the face of it, the offer looked highly successful. It was subscribed eight times and the striking price for the tender was set at 130p—coincidentally, the same as the suspension price. But that price was unsustainable because of the dilution of the equity, and the professionals knew it.

As soon as dealings resumed,



there was an exodus: the shares dropped to 111p and were to see even lower levels in the weeks to come, leaving all those who won shares in the tender nursing some rather nasty wounds.

As part of its post mortem into the affair, Rothschild conducted an experiment in which it stripped out all the small investor applications from the tender offer. It discovered that the striking price which would

have been set if the professionals alone had applied would have been 115p—a sensible price which would probably have found support in the after-market.

This could suggest a potentially horrifying scenario in which small investors rush into the issue not only bidding ludicrously high prices for the shares, but actually having to pay those prices. These people could then stand to take heavy losses on their investments, and would also exert downward pressure on the after-market as they sold in an attempt to cut their losses.

The counter-argument is that the lack of a striking price will make the BAA tender much more attractive. In tenders where there is a striking price, people who want to be sure of getting shares bid high in the knowledge that the striking price will be paid, that will act as a disincentive only to the very smallest investors.

So what are the other implications? Like the Blagden offer, the BAA is part fixed price and part tender. The tender is also one in which all the shares will go to the highest bidders, with no arbitrary striking price being set. The main difference is that in the BAA tender, the tender shares will be sold to successful bidders at

whatever price they tender: there will be no striking price at all, either intellectual or mathematical.

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It may well work, but inevitably some people will bid at silly prices. The success or otherwise of the BAA experiment could ultimately depend on just how numerous they are.

## Trafalgar House in final £212m offer for PPUT

BY DAVID WALLER

Trafalgar House, the shipping, property and construction group, has made an increased and final offer for the Pension Fund Property Unit Trust.

The cash offer is £2,650 per unit valuing the trust's property portfolio at 22.500 per unit against the £2,500 per unit of PPUT, offered last month.

As an alternative, PPUT's shareholders are offered Trafalgar shares to the value of £2,650 per unit plus a premium of approximately £100. The offer compares with the June redemption price of £2,385, and the March price of £2,185.

In addition, Trafalgar is pressing PPUT's committee of management to agree to an extraordinary general meeting to discuss the sale of the portfolio. Trafalgar asked to meet the committee last week, and yesterday said that it had

received no response. "They appear to have their heads in the sand," said Trafalgar. "They seem to be hoping that we will just go away."

Although Trafalgar has received more support from unit-holders than the 10 per cent required to call an extraordinary general meeting, it wishes PPUT to recommend the meeting to avoid complications.

Trafalgar will not proceed with its proposals unless PPUT has acted by July 18 to convene the extraordinary general meeting. PPUT was unavailable for comment yesterday.

The regulations covering property unit trusts require that Trafalgar secures the approval of holders of 75 per cent of the units for its plans to wind-up the trust and dispose of its assets.

## Ladbroke puts £155m into US property sector

BY PAUL CHEESBRIGHT, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

Ladbroke, hotels, property, gaming and retail group, is to invest £250m (£155m) in the US property sector, Mr Cyril Stein, chairman, said.

The spending would be done through London and Leeds Corporation, Ladbroke's US property subsidiary, doubling the group's American property holdings during the next five years.

Mr Stein has a five-year contract which entitles him to no more than 10 per cent of the increase in value of London and Leeds developments.

The moves underline plans for a sharp expansion of Ladbroke's involvement in the US, which is concentrated on the eastern seaboard, following two years of consolidation.

## Barr &amp; Wallace board intact

BY JANICE WARMAN

TWO SHAREHOLDERS failed to prevent the re-election of two non-executive directors at the annual meeting of Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust on Friday.

Mr Richard Mansell-Jones, deputy chairman of the merchant bankers Brown Shipton who are advisers to Barr & Wallace, and Lord Marshall, chairman of the Mutual and Municipal Insurance Company, and brother-in-law of the chairman, Mr Malcolm Barr, were returned.

Mr Harry Syle, and Mr Harry Firth, who have a joint 12.5 per cent holding in the company, maintained that the re-election contravened the Code of Practice issued in April by ProNed, which pro-

motes non-executive directors, and is sponsored by the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and the Confederation of British Industries, among others.

The code suggests that non-executive directors should be independent of management.

Mr Syle, who spent six years as a business consultant with the tour operators, caravans and fleet distribution company, said ProNed's recommendation was that the code should be implemented "as soon as possible" by companies with turnover exceeding £50m.

Mr Syle said that while he had the greatest admiration for both directors, neither were eligible for re-election under the terms of the Code, because they were not independent.

"The family owns 40 per cent of the voting capital. The other 60 per cent of voting shareholders is not represented."

Mr Barr said he felt both directors were sufficiently independent and pointed out that Brown Shipton was not the company's only financial adviser.

He would like to see the election of another non-executive director who was independent of the management and the family, he added. "But I would like to do it in my own time rather than under pressure."

Barr & Wallace produced a 22 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits from \$1.01m to \$1.35m for the year to December 1986.

## Debfor suspended

Shares in Debfor Holdings, the USM-quoted lingerie manufacturer, were suspended at 83p on Friday at the company's request, pending an announcement.

Debfor produced a 46 per cent boost in its 1986 pre-tax profits to \$2m.

## FT Share Information

The following securities have been added to the Share Information Service:

BDA Hldgs. (Section: Property)

Bartam Group Cm. Cm. Ed.

Prof. (Paper, Printing)

Computer People (Industrials)

de Morgan (Property)

Irish Wine Prods. (Industrials)

Locana Mining Corp. (Cannabis)

March Group (Motors)

Pickwick Group (Leisure)

River & Mercantile, Capital, Income, Warrants, and Step-up Preferred Preferred (Investment Trusts)

Finale—

Finch Lavelle

Flame Technology Inv. Tr.

Marrydown Wines

Smith Doctas (Industrials)

Yoreas Gold Mining Corp. (Cannabis)

## MANAGEMENT

FLYING ACROSS the Atlantic for a day's work might seem impossible or just plain crazy to most people. But for Mark Woessner, the silver-haired chairman of Bertelsmann, the big West German media group, it has become commonplace.

late last year, Bertelsmann astonished the media world by snapping up not one, but two leading US companies to become the largest international media concern. First, it announced the \$380m acquisition of the RCA music business, with which it already had a joint venture. Then it bought the lacklustre Doubleday publishing concern for \$275m.

In the build-up to these two large deals, there was plenty of time to put Woessner's long-distance flying routine into practice. When he decides on an eight-hour US stint, he rises at seven, takes the company's Falcon jet to Paris, stops on Concorde, is met in New York (where it is morning), and gets straight down to work, skipping lunch.

Bertelsmann is not only separated from the US by 6,000 miles of Atlantic Ocean, it is not even based in a major German city. Woessner's starting point is the small northern country town of Gütersloh. To return from New York, he catches a normal evening flight, is met by the company plane, and taken to head office for the next day. Other Bertelsmann managers do the same, though not all US trips last only one day.

Apart from being a neat, if seemingly exhausting, example of logistical problem-solving, it shows how a company so firmly rooted in a north German provincial town can develop a worldwide dimension. Clearly, it demands intense planning and concerted effort, both second nature to many German firms.

But the fast-growing family group, which has financed much of its past expansion through its own financial resources, is also keen to retain its sense of identity. It believes ardently in the decentralised approach, giving managers the chance to flourish as entrepreneurs in their own profit centres. This means picking the right people, motivating them, and setting a strategic framework within which they can operate. This is done in Gütersloh.

"Decentralisation," says Woessner, "is a loquacious advocate, 'functions only with a healthy understanding for central strategy and a central corporate philosophy.' Otherwise, 'it is unorderly chaos.' That, clearly, would not be tolerated by the sharp minds in Gütersloh. Already, the integration of both RCA and

## International publishing

## Bertelsmann: going for the bigger steps in the US

Andrew Fisher explains how the W German media group scaled up its expansion programme

Doubleday is going faster than expected. When Bertelsmann formally took over both companies on January 1 this year, "we went to work with a ready-made concept," says Woessner. "At 48, he is a qualified engineer who came up through the group's profitable printing division.

He still reckons it will take three years to digest them fully. In a full year, they will add some DM 3bn (\$1.6bn) of sales to Bertelsmann, whose turnover has shot up from below DM 5bn in 1979-80 (year to June 30) to nearly DM 10bn in 1985-86. Around DM 10bn is expected for the year just ended. But asset write-downs and other financial adjustments in the US will temporarily depress net profits from the DM 330m of 1985-86.

On the management side, it quickly put in a new team at Doubleday, which had been losing money until shortly before the sale by its family owners. It also meshed its publishing, book club, and printing divisions with those of Bertelsmann, which already owned the big Bantam book publishers.

At RCA, it has taken a different route. It knew the company through the joint venture between RCA and its own Arista company, bought in 1979 just as the music business toppled into depression. So it was familiar with the needs of the business and recruited a group of managers from within RCA itself, from its own music interests—the whole music operation is now called Bertelsmann Music Group—and outsiders.

It will trim office staff, shed surplus record and printing capacity, and turn its attention to sharpening quality and artistic standards at RCA and Doubleday. On the music side, it has teamed creative thinkers with business strategists. "It is very hard to find a person who can be both who has long hair and goes to rock concerts at night and is a cool, clear-headed businessman the next morning."

Bertelsmann had already been forging ahead in the US, not always with success. Its Gruener und Jahr magazine subsidiary, for example, failed



Mark Woessner: going to work with a ready-made concept

expensively when it tried to launch *Geo*, a snazzy geographic magazine, there. But with the two huge strides of last year, "the price seemed a bit high from an outside point of view," reckons Kendrick Noble, media analyst at Paine Webber, the US analysts. "But it was a unique situation."

As for RCA, it was General Electric's purchase of it in December 1985 that started Bertelsmann's eyes glinting. "We could see in advance that GE would leave the music business," says Woessner. "We signalled to GE very early that we were interested in a takeover." Its contracts with RCA were comfortable and we had reached a starting point for bigger steps," explains Woessner.

No company other than Doubleday would have been as suitable, he insists. Some in the industry reckon Bertelsmann paid a very high price for Doubleday. Others point to its success with Bantam, publisher of the hot

expensively when it tried to launch *Geo*, a snazzy geographic magazine, there. But with the two huge strides of last year, "the price seemed a bit high from an outside point of view," reckons Kendrick Noble, media analyst at Paine Webber, the US analysts. "But it was a unique situation."

Despite its ambitions, the German company was still wary about making two large purchases within a few months. It had not expected its search to yield two such opportunities and wondered if its manage-

ment could cope. The money was not a problem, with a high cash position and heavy spending already envisaged. The two purchases were financed through a mixture of cash, bank loans, and an issue of non-voting preferred stock to US investors. Its cash position at the end of the 1985-86 financial year was DM 850m.

In the end, Woessner says, "we thought both projects in their different ways had a particular strategic value." Also, "a few days before the acquisitions were in totally different sectors, we could put in the management capacity to integrate them." In this, he was backed by Reinhard Mohn, a fifth-generation Bertelsmann family member who stepped down as chairman in 1981, aged 60, after building up the company from the ashes of the Second World War.

Mohn, who was imbued with the notion of decentralisation while studying in a US prisoner of war camp in the US, had promoted Woessner to the top job in 1983. He had been unhappy with the way his first successor, Manfred Fischer, seemed unwilling to look beyond consolidation.

Under Mohn's leadership, the company had expanded into book clubs, records and magazines. It had modern printing works in and outside Germany, and a big computerised book distribution centre in Gütersloh. Mohn introduced profit centres, of which there are now some 200, employee participation, and generous social benefits.

Now head of the supervisory board, he and his family own 89 per cent of the shares. Gerd Bucerius, the Hamburg publisher, acquired 11 per cent of the shares when he exchanged them for his holding in Gütersloh and Jahr, which Bertelsmann purchased for cash and shares in the 1970s. As with many German family companies, the shareholders have only taken modest dividends. Non-voting participation certificates have been issued to staff and investors.

Bertelsmann began as a religious publisher in 1833, a tradition which led the Nazis to close it down more than a century later. British bombs then destroyed much of the printworks. So Mohn started with fresh ideas and broke away from the old patriarchal system.

"In Germany," says Woessner, "nobody knew what decentralisation was in 1945 after the war. Europe had been ruled in centralised structures for hundreds of years. There were Kaisers, then an attempt at a democracy that didn't work—a central democracy, the Weimar Republic—and then the Hitler dictatorship. The big groups like IG Farben and Krupp became big through centralisation."

Mohn's belief in decentralisation, the pluralistic linking of different activities and viewpoints, and motivation through employee participation and advanced social benefits was wholly alien to Germany.

The combination has clearly worked for Bertelsmann. Other German companies have moved in similar directions, but, admits Woessner, errors can result from decentralisation. The fake Hitler diaries scandal at Stern magazine was one. The *Geo* flop in the US was another.

More recently, the German rights of the *Iceberg* book were sold not to Bertelsmann, but to its West German publishing rival, Econ Verlag. Bantam, a high-profile and, in Munich, did not think it would be a hit in Germany, where it has since sold well. The group's book club had to buy the rights from Econ.

"Is a monolithic company like General Motors or IBM that would not be possible?" says Woessner. "They would say, 'it is bad management.' We say, it is beautiful management, because it brings hundreds of independent companies to the fore. They have the possibility of synergy at many levels and can choose themselves which synergies they want."

Bertelsmann has no plans to add to its operations in the next few years, with yearly capital investment likely to total some DM 1bn. Woessner says it is an biggest media concern with the latest purchases. "It is not our goal to aim at size at any price," he says. But in the 1990s, it will turn its gaze further afield, perhaps to Asia.

And if it wants to grow faster than the targeted 15 per cent a year by adding new units, it may well go to the stock market. "With parts of our US business, we could go to the US stock market, with parts of the European business to stock markets there."

Even when Bertelsmann is digesting its cerebral wheels are still turning.

## Management

## abstracts

Company fraud. T. Nash in Chief Executive (UK), Feb 87 (3 pages)

Reports on findings of studies into the extent of fraud in UK businesses; discovers that it has reached almost epidemic proportions with companies prepared to budget for loss and unwilling to prosecute through fear of bad publicity; considers computer and purchasing fraud.

In search of competence. I. L. Mangham in Journal of General Management (UK), Winter 86 (4 pages)

An article title for an article which based on a survey of senior managers asked to define desirable skills in managers, launches into an attack on the lack of management training, the failure to appreciate exactly what training might be for, and the evidence of some charlatans in the training field and in the pop-management literature, who prescribe cures-all in the fashion of old-time purveyors of patent medicine. Appreciates that much of the problem lies with the way in which certain terms like "effectiveness" and "communication" mean and therefore what is required from training.

Correcting tunnel vision. L. L. Mitroff and S. Kohlman in The Journal of Business Strategy (US), Winter 87 (11 pages)

Draws attention on two of the oldest industries in the US—steel and cars, both ailing and only one judged to be capable of recovery (cars); exposes in detail the rarely articulated but deep beliefs and basic assumptions that have guided their behaviour; uses this information as a base line for making comparisons with other industries; suggests what is needed to revitalise other basic industries and to enable industry as a whole to compete globally.

Shopfloor data capture. D. Potts in Engineering Computers (UK), March 1987 (4 pages)

Describes how shopfloor data collection systems can link computerised production control systems with the production process itself; provides examples of their use at Autometic (metal fabricators) and W. G. Still (commercial kitchen equipment); explains how they give timely and accurate data and can also improve scrap rates and machine utilisation when used as a stand-alone system; gives a list of makers/suppliers of data capture systems.

People and organisations: the hidden energy resource. P. Ellis in Facilities (UK), February 1987 (3 pages)

Discusses how to get people who occupy buildings to use energy sensibly and efficiently; outlines technological, behavioural and human resources approaches to energy management; classifies measures to bring about change in energy use as institutional (e.g. appointing an energy manager), organisational, motivational (such as incentives), and technical (installing automated controls).

The law and smoking at work. D. Tong in Facilities (UK), Feb 87 (11 pages)

Sees an increasing desire for the control of smoking in the workplace (from both smokers and non-smokers, according to

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Automobiles should be more than safe, comfortable machines. They should also be able to communicate with the world around them.

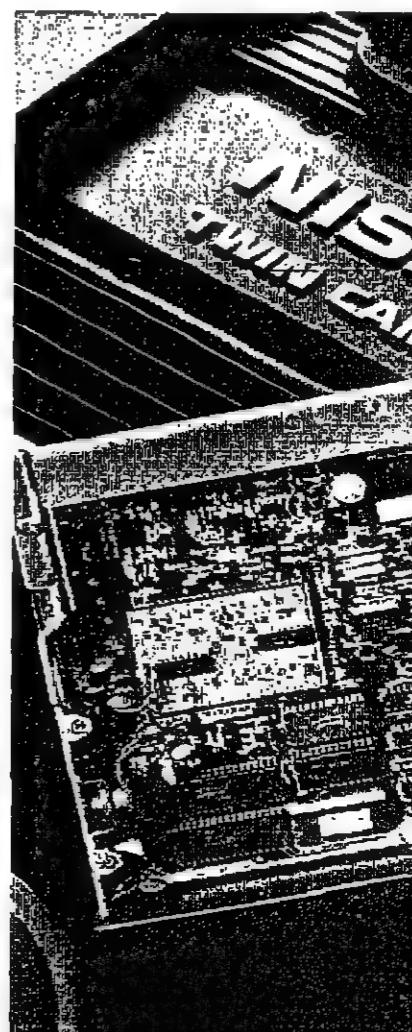
**AUTOMOTIVE**

Recent advances in car electronics technology have been remarkable. They've not only improved basic functions such as engine control, they're now being seen in man-machine interfaces providing more comfort and operating ease, and even in communications with the surrounding world. Down the road there are things even more exciting.

Hitachi's scientists and engineers are at work on a Multi Information System using a colour thin film transistor LCD to display operating information, road maps and a navigational system using these maps. With this system a driver could obtain a variety of driving information simply by touching the display screen. Eventually, he'll be able to issue verbal commands to, for instance, regulate the temperature within his car. Hitachi electronics and semiconductor technology can also bring free communication with the outside and determine a car's exact location through use of Global Positioning System satellites.

Hitachi have also developed a highly acclaimed hot wire air flow sensor used in engine management. It helps achieve the diametrically opposed goals of maximum power and fuel economy. And we've created many other superior products for driving control, suspension control, air-conditioning and audio.

We link technology to human needs; and believe that our special knowledge will create new, highly sophisticated functions that are also easy to operate. Our goal in automotive electronics—and medicine, energy and consumer electronics as well—is to create and put into practice innovations that will improve the quality of life the world around.



Hitachi's wide-ranging automotive technologies include car audio, the Satellite Drive Information System, featured on Nissan's CUE-X concept car; a car telephone, and a microcomputer engine control system.

**HITACHI**  
Hitachi, Ltd. Tokyo, Japan

## WORLD MARKETS

## FT ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

Jointly compiled by the Financial Times, Goldman, Sachs &amp; Co., and Wood Mackenzie &amp; Co. Ltd., in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MARKETS

	FRIDAY JULY 3 1987			THURSDAY JULY 2 1987			DOLLAR INDEX			
	US Dollar Index	Day's Change	Pound Sterling Index	Local Currency Index	US Dollar Index	Pound Sterling Index	Local Currency Index	1987 High	1987 Low	Year to Date
Australia (36)	126.31	-0.2	126.52	126.11	126.56	126.26	126.11	141.44	99.92	77.46
Austria (16)	86.15	-0.6	79.33	82.18	2.51	86.65	79.54	101.62	85.71	86.96
Belgium (48)	124.66	+2.3	114.79	117.59	4.09	121.84	111.85	124.56	96.19	82.66
Canada (132)	151.15	+1.4	120.72	120.02	2.25	121.36	118.75	124.58	100.00	99.61
Denmark (59)	111.40	-0.5	102.28	109.32	1.50	110.50	107.50	112.10	99.94	87.44
West Germany (92)	96.61	+0.5	101.46	101.11	2.07	108.36	99.47	102.81	98.38	87.82
Hong Kong (45)	127.21	-0.6	117.14	127.55	3.47	131.05	127.95	128.28	95.55	71.04
Ireland (14)	134.04	+0.7	123.41	129.65	2.63	127.95	122.25	134.05	95.50	95.45
Italy (78)	110.49	+1.0	98.47	101.47	0.52	141.88	120.24	121.11	99.50	85.50
Malaysia (36)	138.75	+1.2	127.77	130.51	2.24	171.72	157.64	152.06	100.00	82.38
Mexico (14)	173.73	+1.2	159.98	169.30	0.50	246.17	225.98	364.02	98.24	82.47
Netherlands (58)	125.01	+0.4	236.74	380.16	3.77	122.72	116.92	124.51	98.29	82.42
New Zealand (26)	124.51	+0.9	114.66	117.75	2.27	129.44	125.87	125.89	97.25	82.25
India (24)	140.92	+0.2	129.76	128.48	2.23	140.61	129.08	128.02	140.92	100.00
Singapore (27)	149.29	+1.6	137.48	135.89	1.69	146.95	134.90	143.46	149.29	77.53
South Africa (61)	157.32	-0.1	144.87	118.61	3.47	157.46	144.54	148.71	100.00	76.83
Spain (43)	120.44	-1.3	110.90	116.06	3.41	122.04	112.03	117.09	122.93	100.00
Sweden (33)	111.42	+0.2	102.42	104.94	1.54	120.20	112.81	112.81	102.42	92.53
World Ex. US (339)	58.48	+0.6	90.48	93.41	3.11	151.23	149.85	149.85	104.06	86.46
United Kingdom (336)	152.51	+0.8	140.44	140.44	2.90	124.97	138.83	153.12	99.55	102.74
World Ex. Japan (192)	124.92	+0.0	115.03	124.92	2.05	124.97	124.91	126.64	100.00	105.47
The World Index (2420)	129.56	-0.6	119.31	124.92	2.05	130.29	119.60	125.07	135.15	100.00
Base values: Dec. 1986 = 100 Copyright: The Financial Times, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Wood Mackenzie & Co. Ltd. 1987										
CONSTITUTION CHANGES: Detour: Laysure Trusts, US; Debenture Corp., GIC and Sesa Petroleum (Norway)										
Name Changes: Dorsey Corp. to Constar Int'l. Inc. and USIS and Cement Roadhouse to CRH (Ireland)										
Latest prices were unavailable for this edition.										

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Base values: Dec

## UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

## UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS			
Yield 1. Real.	Interest Date	Stock	Price £
Index-Linked			
9.11			(b)
8.37			
9.26	30 Sep 30 Mar/Trees. 20c '98	(297.1)	136.92
9.25	25 Jul 30 Jun Do. 20c '98	(333.9)	125.11
6.43	23 Sep 15 Sep Do. 20c '98	(365.8)	96.91
9.27	16/18 Jun 15 Sep Do. 20c '98	(267.9)	106.11
9.34	24/26 Mar 24 Sep Do. 20c '98	(358.8)	106.11
9.20	20 Mar 20 Sep Do. 20c '98	(310.7)	102.11
6.64	19 Jun 19 Jun Do. 20c '98	(274.1)	96.91
9.27	20/22 Mar 20 May Do. 20c '98	(310.7)	104.91
9.31	23/25 Mar 20 May Do. 20c '98	(294.1)	104.91
9.32	16/18 Jun 16 Jun Do. 20c '98	(251.9)	87.11
7.78	26/28 Mar 26 May Do. 20c '98	(251.9)	87.11
8.31	16/18 Jun 16 Jun Do. 20c '98	(322.0)	93.21
9.25	17/19 Mar 17/19 Jun Do. 20c '98	(327.3)	93.21
9.35			
6.03	Prospective real redemption rate on projected inflows		
8.73	(2) 5%: (b) Figures in parentheses show RPI base		
9.34	at 6 months prior to issue. RPI for October 1986		
6.66	1987: 101.9 (rebased at 100 January 1987 current		
4.27			
7.48			
6.65			
8.74			
9.26			
9.32			
8.47			
9.39			
4 Jun	4 Jun/June Do. 21/21 Jun '2010		187.74
24/26 Sep	24/26 Sep/Aug Do. 10/10 Sep '2009		124.91
28/29 Mar	28/29 Mar/Apr Do. 11/11 Apr '2010		124.91
26/28 Apr	26/28 Apr/Jul Do. 11/11 Jul '2015		111.21
23/25 Mar	23/25 Mar/Euro Do. 21/21 Mar '2002		109.01
22/24 Mar	22/24 Mar/Euro Do. 10/10 Mar '2004		109.01
8 Jun	8 Jun/June Do. 21/21 Jun '2013		122.04
7.71	15 May 15 May Do. 9 Jun/June '2015		122.04
9.30	31 Jan 31 Jan/May Do. 10 Jun/June '2009		149.71
9.38	31 Jan 31 Jan/May Do. 12 Jun/June '2008		161.31
9.49	4 May 4 May/Jul Do. 11 Jun/June '2008		168.81
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9.43	1 Aug/Sept Do. 18/18 Sep '99		102.11
9.25	10 Mar 10 Mar/CLC Do. 18/18 Mar '90		93.11
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## BRITISH FUNDS—Contd

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Price	Last	Last	Div	Div	Yield	Yield
£	£	£	£	£	%	%
53 5/8	53	53 5/8	—	—	—	—
50 2/8	50	50 2/8	—	—	—	—
47 3/4	47	47 3/4	—	—	—	—
53 5/8	53	53 5/8	2.75	2.75	4.37	4.37
139 3/8	139	139 3/8	15.00	15.00	10.50	10.50
90 5/8	90	90 5/8	—	—	—	—
128 1/8	128	128 1/8	14.50	14.50	11.13	11.13
1000 30/1	1000	1000 30/1	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.75
94 30/8	94	94 30/8	—	—	—	—

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Continued on next page









## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## Funding and sterling fears dominate sentiment

By Colin Milham

STERLING'S RECOVERY towards the end of last week helped restore a little confidence in London's financial markets, and prevent a slide in the gilt market.

Citifutures, the futures trading arm of Citibank, suggested earlier in the week that if the pound did not hold, gilt futures could fall sharply.

County NatWest, Gilt-Edged Securities commented that funding worries and uncertainty about sterling had put upward pressure on real yields, and overseas investors were less enthusiastic about gilts than expected, because of greater dollar confidence.

The main problem as far as the market is concerned is the heavy intervention by the authorities, to prevent sterling rising

before the June UK general election.

This has offset the earlier confidence generated by a lower than expected public sector borrowing requirement in the Budget, reversing forecasts of a shortage of stock.

Stockbrokers, James Capel, pointed out that before the June fall in the pound, UK official reserves there had been a three-month rise of \$3.5bn.

This threatens to cause considerable problems with money supply growth, unless the sale of sterling to the market is sterilised by much larger than expected inflows of gilt buyers.

County NatWest said that at the time of the Budget monthly funding estimates were around £750m,

but that intervention by the authorities had cut the pound by 1.5 per cent, and it was this that caused a rise in yields back over 9 per cent.

There has also been a disappointing response from overseas investors to the Conservative Party victory in the election, partly because of the cost of taking a long-term position, but also because overseas investors, particularly the Japanese, have been attracted back into US bonds as the dollar has improved.

Morgan Grenfell commented that the dollar's strength is rather surprising, given the weakness in money supply, and the recent fall in 6.1 per cent from 6.3 per cent in unemployment less important than the disappointing rise of 0.7 per cent.

County NatWest said that at the time of the Budget monthly funding estimates were around £750m,

only 116,000 in non-farm employment, and expects the authorities to be more positive about lack of job creation.

Shortly after the UK election, Nomura Research Institute said funds could be expected to flow steadily, rather than dramatically, into gilts over the next few months.

County NatWest agrees that the process of building up long-term positions will be a long drawn-out process.

But at the same time underlying sentiment about sterling is good. Nomura says it sees a move by sterling up to \$1.70 and DM 3.00.

James Capel tends to agree the inflation rate will probably rise to 4.4 per cent in June and expects a peak of 4.6 per cent in July.

The most important UK economic statistic released this week

will be the retail prices index on Friday. Morgan Grenfell forecasts no change in June prices, for the first time since July last year, leaving the year-on-year inflation rate at 4.1 per cent.

County NatWest predicts a rise of 0.2 per cent and an annual rate of 4.4 per cent, with the rates of inflation and growth in real terms in Europe, accompanied by lower interest rates, with UK rates moving in a similar direction.

James Capel tends to agree the inflation rate will probably rise to 4.4 per cent in June and expects a peak of 4.6 per cent in July.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange, Royal Exchange, London EC3V 4EP

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# FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

**Forecasts of bank profits while still high, are being downgraded in the light of the sluggish domestic economy and weak corporate demand. On the international front many German banks are raising their sights and tackling the inroads being made at home by sharper foreign competition,** says Haig Simonian

## Still plenty to smile about

IT HAS BEEN another good year for West Germany's banks. Almost all have reported record profits, and some, notably Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank, have increased their dividends or given their shareholders special bonuses to reflect their well-being.

The banks' success has stemmed from various factors. Interest rate margins on lending have sometimes shrunk, but remain acceptable. Some banks' interest income has actually increased thanks to higher business volumes.

Moreover, virtually every bank worth its salt made another profit in the current year. A surging domestic stock market means both foreign and domestic investors were drawn to German equities, keeping the banks' commission tills ringing.

And with plenty of volatility in stock, bond and foreign exchange markets last year, many financial institutions managed to raise their earnings from own account trading.

German banks' annual reports may still be miracles of non-disclosure, but the big smiles on many chief executives' faces when it came to last year's own account profits often spoke



Twin-towered Deutsche Bank sprouted a third tower in an April Fools Day picture in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. The bank needed the extra space to meet its rapid growth in a year of record earnings, said the paper. Joking aside, West Germany's leading banks have indeed had a memorable year.

## West Germany BANKING FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

are sitting on huge cash piles. A number of companies are now looking for advice on how best to invest their money rather than how to spend it.

And German equities have had a lackluster year so far, while many other European bourses hit new highs. International portfolio managers can be surprisingly modish, and there is no denying German shares were distinctly out for most of 1987.

Many banks have already recognised that their bumper 1986 commission earnings will not be repeated, and have downgraded their profit forecasts accordingly.

However, one area where German bankers will be spared from copying any fashion this year is Third World debt provisioning. Citibank's decision to bite the bullet and raise its Less Developed country lending provisions, once constrained by the loss of overseas colonies and the breakdown of established trading relations after two world wars, the German banks have been expanding rapidly abroad in recent years.

The past nine months have provided ample evidence of that trend. Deutsche Bank's decision, finalised last December, to buy Banca d'America et d'Italia, Bank of America's Italian retail banking arm, headed last year's foreign expansion list.

European loans is less clear. Extreme caution on the international lending front has not deterred leading German banks from spreading their wings abroad. Once constrained by the loss of overseas colonies and the breakdown of established trading relations after two world wars, the German banks have been expanding rapidly abroad in recent years.

Others are going the same way, though generally in the theoretically more lucrative areas of investment rather than commercial banking.

BHF-Bank has decided to follow Deutsche Bank's example and set up a capital markets unit in London, concentrating on equity research and trading.

It may be that many other banks are thinking about going the same way now there is little sign of an imminent repeal of the Boersenabsatzsteuer—the stock exchange turnover tax—which has encouraged a very lively secondary market in German securities in London.

Further afield, both BHF and

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4

Bayerische Vereinsbank look set to receive their formal securities licences in Tokyo before the summer is out, completing the list of German banks wanting to do securities business in Japan.

Meanwhile Luxembourg, the first foreign destination for many West German bankers, is going through a respite period. The continuing decline of the traditional Syndicat Eurocredit loan business and the growth of new markets in securitised debt instruments in London has prompted many banks to rethink their operations in the Grand Duchy.

No one is talking about closing, but a number of banks have redefined their roles in Luxembourg.

Many German banks have raised their profiles abroad, but all have had to get to grips with the reality of greater foreign competition at home this year. While foreign commercial banks are still attracted by Germany's importance as an international trading nation, the real increase in business has come on the investment banking side.

The abolition of withholding tax in April 1985, followed by the introduction of new financial instruments, the expansion of the foreign bond issuing corridor and the green light for foreign banks to lend money in D-mark Eurobonds have triggered a wave of new bank arrivals in Frankfurt.

None of the newcomers is complaining about what has been done so far, but almost all would like to see further changes.

The market has certainly become more competitive with the arrival of international names like Credit Suisse First Boston, Salomon Brothers and Morgan Stanley. But the newcomers have rocked the boat in more mundane ways too.

Good staff—particularly securities staff—have been extremely difficult to find. Banks are trawling ever further afield, while Frankfurt has had to get used to the idea of unprecedented personnel changes between institutions this year. Even good quality office space is very hard to find.

At least German bankers are losing little sleep over foreigners trying to pinch their small and medium-sized corporate clients, the so-called Mittelstand, often described as the

their plans for secondary market trading operation because of its survival.

Among the other changes investment bankers would like to see are a reduction in the Bundesbank's two week notification period before new DM Eurobonds issues, which plays havoc with the currency market's driving force.

Moreover, there are still no satisfactory hedging instruments for DM securities while it remains against the law for dealers to go short in stocks or bonds.

The federal finance ministry and the Bundesbank offer only partial solutions. "The stock exchange turnover tax will go," says a senior finance ministry man, "but only as part of a wider, and still undetermined, tax measure."

"We are aware of bankers' problems with the notification period," adds a top Bundesbank man, who hints that a cut may be on the cards. Meanwhile, the chances of doing futures and options business have increased following an initiative by the Frankfurt stock exchange to look into a new market, although it is still a long way off.

However, even some existing reforms have come as a double-edged sword to certain German bankers. The changes have encouraged Frankfurt's development, but they have also shaken up the cosy world of investment banking and the securities business here as it was.

Top of every list is the abolition of the Boersenabsatzsteuer, which was one of the Christian Democratic party's election pledges in January but has since fallen by the wayside in the wrangling in the governing coalition over other fiscal reforms.

The tax brings in a paltry DM 800m a year to the German exchequer, but bankers all say its damage to Finanzplatz Deutschland—Germany as a financial centre—is immeasurable.

Wholesale business in stocks and bonds is being pushed abroad, while the continuation of the tax may have made some foreign houses think twice about coming to Frankfurt in the first place. Others have almost certainly scaled down

Continued on next Page

## INVESTMENTS IN GERMANY

If your investment strategy includes multemarket diversification of assets, West Germany should rank high on your list of priorities. An increasing number of cross-border investors—both institutional and private—are profiting from this market of expanding international importance.

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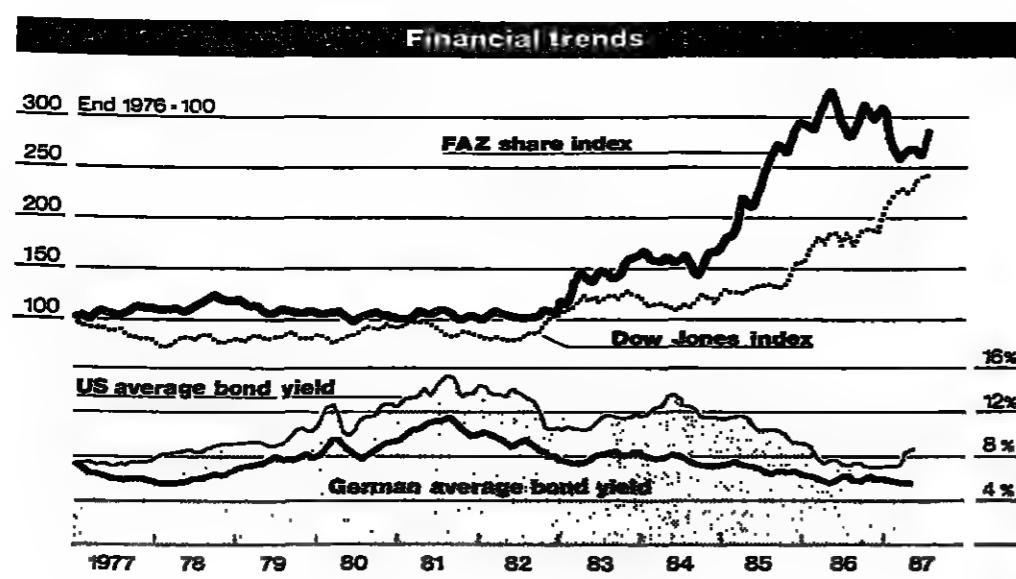
people and lose no time in analyzing all the risks and opportunities.

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## WEST GERMAN BANKING 2



Although the country enjoys one of the world's most prosperous economies the big insurance groups and pension funds are not really equity-minded. Hence the attempts to make the markets more attractive.



## Working towards greater international appeal

IN GERMANY, it is foreign investors who dominate the stock and bond markets. They accounted for at least half of all business last year and their presence carried share prices to new highs until a phase of inertia set in just over a year ago.

The share-buying mentality is far less well developed in Germany than, say, in the US or Britain. In a country with a turbulent recent history, where people are used to taking the long view, both forward and backwards, the security of fixed interest stocks has more attractions than the fluctuations of

make its financial markets more attractive and efficient.

The mobilisation of domestic institutions would contribute to a further strengthening of the stock market, argues Mr Ruediger von Rosen, who runs the newly-formed Association of German Stock Exchanges.

His job is to boost the collective status of the eight German bourses, dominated by Frankfurt and Dusseldorf, by encouraging more co-operation, efficiency, and technical innovation. A former Bundesbank official, he has begun work fast.

The requirement is to make the German Federal Republic into one of the three or four leading financial centres of the world," he said in a recent speech.

In Germany these days, there is a lot of talk about the status of Finanzplatz Deutschland (Germany as a financial centre). It is often faced with the slightly sheepish realisation that the character of its markets still has a strong provincial strain.

Mr von Rosen quoted a head-

line in Handelsblatt, the German business daily, which said: "Germany's bourses are not provincial." While that was correct, he added: "Not being provincial is satisfactory, true, but not good." More needed to be done.

Leading bankers like Mr Wolfgang Roeller, chairman of Dresdner Bank, have often stressed that greater efforts were needed to raise the level of German securities markets.

With eight bourses—the others are Munich, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Berlin, Hanover, and Bremen—some degree of provincialism is inevitable.

West Germany is organised politically along decentralised lines, and the lack of a major capital city, unlike pre-war Berlin, means that business, political, and cultural activity is less concentrated than in many other nations. In economic terms, however, such decentralisation has proved no hindrance.

But structural questions apart, Germany still has some catching up to do. Share options

and financial futures are lacking, a turnover tax remains, despite earlier Government promises to remove it, stock markets are only open two hours a day, and shares have a minimum face value of DM 50, which tends to keep their price level high and out of reach of small investors. On all these points, the association has pressed for reforms.

Still, change is in the air. Action to allow traded equity options is being pushed by the Frankfurt bourse, which has commissioned a study to see how a new market could be set up. Options are not forbidden at present, but their use is highly restricted.

Since the equally conservative Swiss are going ahead with a new market, German financial experts feel the time has come for movement in the federal Republic as well.

It is not just a matter of pride.

There is real concern that more business could flow to other European or US markets, if Germany lags behind. Also, without adequate hedging instruments, German stock markets are subject to sharper swings, as big financial investors tend to take short-term positions.

Mostly, investors' attention is focused on the small number of well-known companies and banks, whose shares dominate dealings. About half of Frankfurt's turnover is in only 10 shares, and the wide array of new issues in recent years accounts for a mere 5 per cent.

In a bid to prompt more of Germany's myriad small companies to come to the market, a new financing platform has just been created. This is the Geregelte Markt (regulated market) in stocks and bonds, which started in May after a change in the law.

Companies entering this mar-

ket will have to publish financial information only once a year, instead of twice on the main exchange, and will need a minimum of DM 500,000 (+275,000) in own capital against DM 25,000.

This market is the fourth for equities in Germany. There is also regulated and unregulated free trading, comprising unlisted securities markets under regional control.

Another legal change may encourage more companies to go public, since institutions like insurance companies will no longer be restricted to investing in stocks with an official listing. Also, any suitable organization, not just a bank, will be able to lead a flotation on the new market.

In its first four weeks, the Geregelte Markt had 40 shares and 1,300 bonds, of which just over half had switched from the regulated free trading market.

They can do this at no cost until April 30, 1988, after which the two free trading markets will be combined.

In a cautious assessment, Westdeutsche Landesbank said:

"It remains to be seen whether or not the creation of a second market will entice a notable number of companies to go public in Germany. Experience in other countries with comparable parallel markets has, in any case, been positive."

The group with which the new secondary market was set up gratified Mr von Rosen. He reckoned it would strengthen some of the smaller bourses by encouraging local firms to go public.

Since many family firms built up in the post-war decades now face a change of generation, the new market should help solve problems of both ownership and financing.

The task of giving the German

The Frankfurt (top left) and Dusseldorf bourses are the biggest of the eight operating in West Germany

## Still much to smile about

Continued from Page 1

economic backbone of the country.

Even attempts by well-established foreign banks to gain a foothold have often gone amiss. Some observers reckon many of the foreign banks with commercial banking networks in Germany will eventually retrench and concentrate more on investment banking. Every banker accepts that the German commercial market is already over-banked.

While the foreign threat in commercial banking may be limited, competition between German institutions is fierce and is growing. The country's huge savings bank movement is again mounting—this time with more conviction—about the need for changes in order to become more competitive against the big commercial banks.

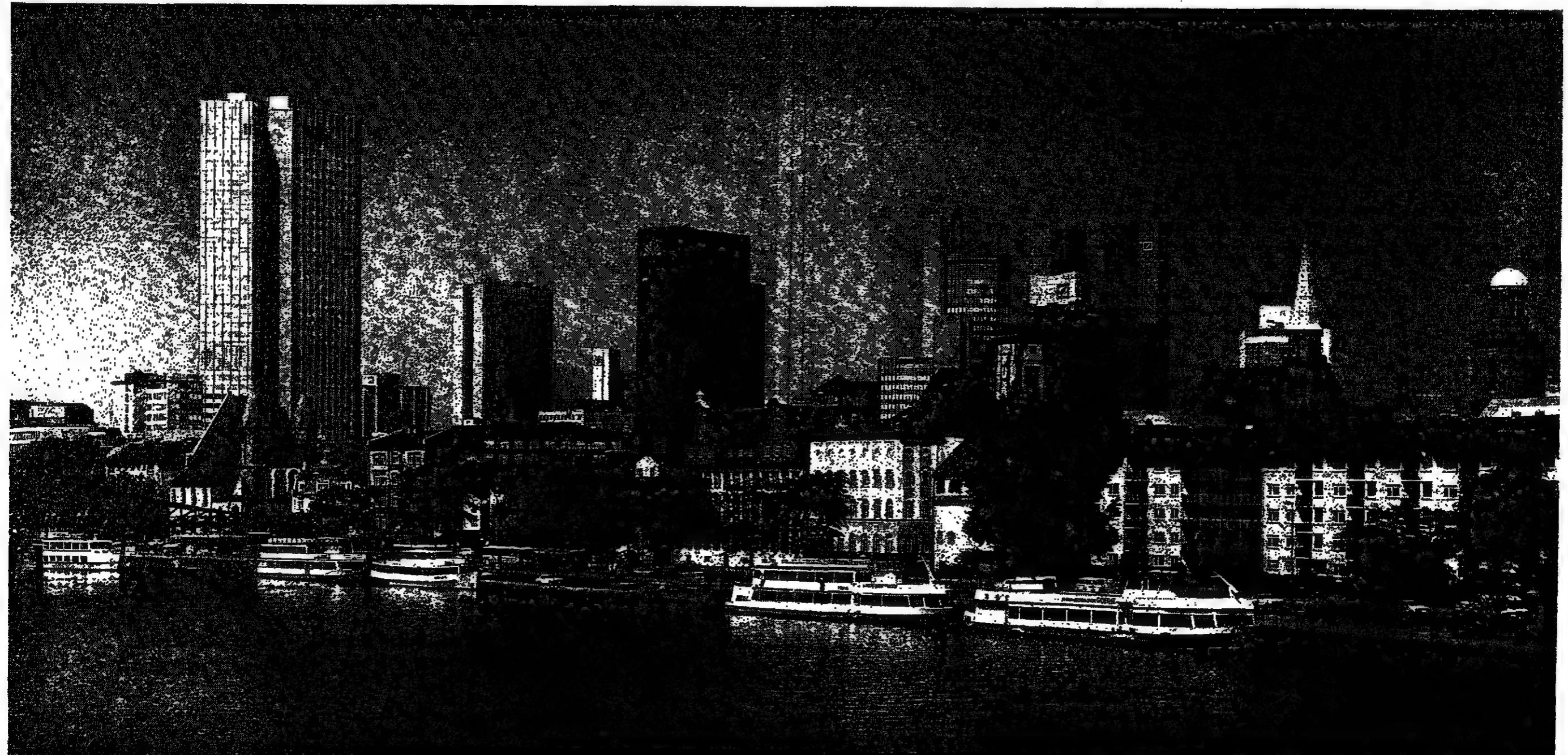
And not so far over the horizon is the prospect of big insurance playing a role in the banking business. The decision by the Aachener and Duesseldorfer, West Germany's fifth largest insurance group, to buy a controlling stake in Sparkasse Gemeinwirtschaft from Germany's trade union movement was derided at the outset.

With plans for co-operation and cross-marketing now beginning to take shape, the critics may in time have to reconsider.

securities markets greater international appeal is a long-term one. It has been given considerable help by the Bundesbank, which in the past three years has eliminated coupon tax that foreigners paid on interest from domestic bonds, given the go-ahead to such previously shunned exotics as floating rate notes and zero coupon bonds, permitted foreign banks to lead D-mark Eurobond issues, and let them join the federal bond consortium.

One Japan has allowed in more foreign investment banks; its own institutions will also be allowed to lead-manage new foreign D-mark bonds, a reciprocity issue that remains open. Like the Swiss and US banks, the Japanese are already in Germany in force to take advantage of the opening up of the investment scene.

Andrew Fisher



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worldwide network of 3,000 correspondents. Our customers cover the whole gamut, from private individuals to small business and major enterprises. And as for the future, we are better placed than most to work hand in hand with our customers.

Financial year 1986 Provisional figures as at December 31, 1986

Total assets	DM 59.9 billion
Customers' deposits	DM 28.4 billion
Loans to customers	DM 32.0 billion
Shareholders' funds	DM 2.1 billion

Consolidated Balance Sheet Figures.

**BfG:Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft**

## WEST GERMAN BANKING 3

## Foreign banks activities

## Rich pickings in investment and securities

MENTION FOREIGN banks to West German money-men in Frankfurt, and leading US and Swiss houses will probably spring to mind.

The Bundesbank's softly-softly reform of the country's capital markets has attracted a galaxy of the world's top investment banks to Germany, consolidating Frankfurt's position as the country's financial capital.

Frankfurt's role as a centre for foreign banks is not new. Hamburg, the country's largest port, still has a substantial banking community, made largely of far-flung Asian and South American names and better-known international institutions specialising in trade finance. But Frankfurt has consolidated its role in recent years.

Leading US banks, like Citicorp, Chase Manhattan and Morgan Guaranty, are among the longest-established foreign houses in the city. And American Express Bank caters for the everyday banking needs of the very large number of US servicemen in West Germany.

However, the leading US banks have not always had things their own way. West German banks are becoming more competitive, and the foreigner-stable US institutions—still have a strong lead thanks to keen marketing and pricing. Most foreign banks now have sizeable foreign trading operations in Frankfurt.

Breaking into West German corporate banking is easier said than done, however, as the market is mature and already overbanked, say many bankers.

Foreign banks have had to overcome the very close and often privileged links between German banks and corporations, which are sometimes cemented by the sizeable stakes in companies often held by West German banks.

More recently, they have also been hampered by the fact that many leading West German companies are hardly short of cash. Sluggish economic growth at home and the strength of the Deutsche Mark abroad have made many companies soft-pedal on new investment and turn their attention instead to how to invest their spare cash.

Foreign banks trying to get round these obstacles and find



Citibank headquarters in Frankfurt

new areas of business have sometimes come unstuck. Citibank, which is by far the biggest foreign financial institution in Germany with around 500 staff, made a brief and ill-fated drive to break into "middle market" corporate business a couple of years ago. Its subsequent rapid departure is still cited with a touch of glee by some German bankers.

A few foreign banks have attempted to crack the German market by acquiring Britain's Midland Bank, or the now defunct Bank of Taksim & Bankhaege, based in Duesseldorf, while Lloyds Bank made what now seems a very astute decision to buy Schroeder, Muenchmeyer, Hengst.

At the other end of the scale, Citicorp owns Kunden Kredit, a high street retail institution, while in February, Spain's Banco Santander bought CC Bank, a similar but smaller organisation, from Bank of America.

Foreign exchange is one area where foreign banks have been able to make a mark largely because it has been poorly served by domestic rivals until the recent past. West German banks are becoming more competitive, and the foreigner-stable US institutions—still have a strong lead thanks to keen marketing and pricing. Most foreign banks now have sizeable foreign trading operations in Frankfurt.

But it is investment banking that has worked the strongest spell over the past two years, as the German authorities have come up with a string of reforms.

Withholding tax on securities was dropped in April 1984; all but Japanese foreign houses got the green light to lead manage Deutsche Mark Eurobonds in May 1985; and in April 1986, the federal Government bond underwriting consortium was widened to include a substantial foreign presence.

Well over 80 per cent of new federal bond issues now end up in foreign hands, and some put the figure as high as 80 per cent.

Moreover, the West German stock market has, until this year, been through an unprecedented

period of growth, with the Dax index up 100 per cent.

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## WEST GERMAN BANKING 4

## Savings and regional banks

## Soul-searching debate on closer co-operation

SAVINGS BANKS in West Germany are hard to miss. Almost every town or village worth its salt sports one — often cheek by jowl with an arch rival from the co-operative banking movement — somewhere along its high street.

The country's 580 savings banks, and the regional Landesbanken, which represents them at a state level, play a vital part in oiling the wheels of day-to-day German finance.

Yet although they provide retail banking services for millions of private and small business customers, the savings banks can hardly be called the movers and the shakers of the German financial system.

Or at least that was the case until fairly recently. For the banks are now in the midst of a bout of self-analysis in the face of new demands from their customers and greater competition for savings from commercial banks, which until recently tended to devote relatively little attention to the local retail market.

The cynics say they have heard it all before, but many observers think the latest soul-searching may amount to something.

That something usually means rationalisation, and the provision of new services, notably in securities and investment management for private clients, and foreign activities for business customers.

The trend towards concentration among savings banks is nothing new: their numbers have been dwindling for years as relatively small banks have got together to concentrate resources and expertise, and to achieve economies of scale — especially in new technology.

But the present focus is less on small local mergers than on closer links between the Landesbanken themselves.

They come at the top of the savings banks' hierarchy, taking responsibility for wholesale banking activities and areas like foreign exchange and trade finance where it makes sense to do business on a regional basis.

The competitive pressure to form larger units, combined with political changes in some state governments, are now two reasons behind the present debate about closer co-operation — or even mergers — between some small and medium-sized Landesbanken.

There is no denying the commercial pressure — both the savings and the Landesbanken have been losing market share in the past two years, partly because many are too small to offer the full range of services customers now want. The result has been for many clients to continue using the savings banks for their bread and butter business, but — turning increasingly to the large commercial banks — or to up-market private houses — for more specialised services.

The proponents of rationalisation also say that larger Landesbanken could save money and improve efficiency, while achieving synergy by bringing some of the smaller Landesbanken together.

Mergers would also streamline the bank's foreign representation. It is accepted that to justify the logic, in both cost and business terms, of the present situation where ever more Landesbanken are opening independent offices in foreign centres like London and New York.

Developments in state politics have strengthened these calls for change. Politicians come into the picture as Germany's Landesbanken tend to be owned jointly by the savings banks and the governments of the states in which they operate.

Take the present talk about a possible merger between the Badische Landesbank, Hesse's Landesbank, Hesla, and a variety of institutions including neighbouring Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz.

Such a combination was almost unthinkable until just a few months ago. But, with the Christian Democrats in power in most neighbouring states, rumours are already circulating as a result of the shift in government from Socialist to Christian Democrat after Hesse's state elections in April.

The most enterprising redrawing of the future Landesbanken may features just four large groupings:

- One in the north around Norddeutsche Landesbank (NordLB), Germany's third largest Landesbank, and possibly including Landesbank Hamburg and Girozentrale Kiel, which are both still independent.

- Westdeutsche Landesbank (WestLB), in the west, which is already the largest Landesbank at present and Germany's third biggest bank;

- A grouping in the south around Bayerische Landesbank, currently the second biggest Landesbank;

- Some as yet amorphous combine in the middle of Germany, which could include Hesla, Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz, and — somewhat less likely — Deutsche Girozentrale (DGZ), the specialist wholesale bank traditionally associated with the savings bank movement.

This group could also take in Landesbank Stuttgart and the Badische Kommunale Landesbank, the two institutions representing savings banks in Baden-Wuerttemberg, although their names have also been

been some success examples of rationalisation in the past.

associated with a larger grouping in south Germany, round Bayerische Landesbank, or as two-thirds of a trio to include Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz.

Many top savings bankers agree that something must be done, but if they often stop short of talking about full-blown mergers in public. As matters stand, a working group has already been set up to consider possibilities.

Among its suggestions is the need for more efficient co-operation between local savings banks and the regional Landesbanken. Savings banks must also offer a wider range of products at local level and learn to market them more effectively.

Implementation, however, is often easier said than done — especially for more controversial suggestions. In this case, savings should be rationalised and provided across state borders by which ever Landesbank is best able to offer them.

Take a recent idea by Mr Friedel Neuber, WestLB's chief executive, that his bank, with its extensive foreign branch network, might play a useful role in representing smaller counterparts abroad.

Very logical, it would seem. But the notion is not guaranteed a sympathetic response. "Who makes the profit?" asks one member of another Landesbank. "And what's to stop WestLB taking the pick of the business and leaving the rest for the others?"

Such reactions occur frequently in a movement in which it is seldom easy to reconcile the ambitions of forward-looking banks with the more conservative tastes of smaller local counterparts.

Nevertheless, there have been some successful examples of rationalisation in the past.

Bayerische Landesbank was formed from a merger between two separate Bavarian savings institutions.

More strikingly, NordLB took over 75 per cent of the much smaller Badische Landesbank three years ago, with the Bremer state government retaining the remaining quarter share. The deal made business sense, and showed that political differences could be overcome if the commercial reasons were strong enough. While NordLB is based in the Christian Democratic-governed state of Niedersachsen, Bremen is a long-standing Socialist stronghold.

Nevertheless, it is clear that nothing is going to change overnight in the longer term, there are three possible avenues. The first is to create associations between neighbouring Landesbanken, possibly starting with a merger between the two banks in Baden-Wuerttemberg itself.

The second is more of the same as a result of local squabbling and conflicting interests. Some successful members of the movement, such as the DGZ, may even be questioning the overall logic of mergers on the grounds that a solution to the movement's problems goes beyond just size, and that well-functioning units should be left alone.

The third way, exemplified by NordLB and, to a lesser extent, WestLB, is to start with piecemeal co-operation in a variety of areas, like data processing, when there are clear business justifications, before jumping to full-scale mergers.

In an area as sensitive as Germany's savings bank movement, the softly, softly approach may have much to recommend it.

Hal Simonson



Cologne (above) and Munich (below) are strong regional centres for Landesbanken which are now in the midst of a bout of self-analysis in the face of new demands



## Venture capital

## Swashbucklers are proving hard to find

VENTURE CAPITAL in Germany is no longer quite the enigma that once left local bankers scratching their heads. While the small number of established practitioners have stayed afloat, new laws brought in by the Government in January this year are encouraging newcomers, notably among the big banks, to enter the business.

Nevertheless, German venture capital is still at a relatively early stage compared with other financial centres, and it remains marked by a strong conservatism, particularly among the banks, it is conceded. Some smaller groups have been more enterprising, but swashbuckling, risk-oriented venture capitalists remain conspicuous by their absence.

The early experience of WFG, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Wagniskapital — the first German venture capital group off the mark in 1976 — is an object lesson in the business's somewhat tortuous early development.

WFG, owned at the outset by a group of 29 banks, was set up partly at the Government's instigation and with some public money, in response to the strong feelings which, to some extent, remain that German financiers had not in the past proved flexible and innovative enough to cater for the needs of new companies.

However, many of WFG's early ventures were unsuccessful, and the difficulties it experienced have left something of a stigma on the business which has still not been entirely removed.

WFG's first fund still exists, and is now going through the last, distribution phase in its cycle, according to Mr Karl Heinz Fanselow, who took reins in 1980. However, the company has been reorganised and is now owned by a group of five leading banks.

Mr Fanselow is keener to draw attention to WFG's second fund, set in 1984. More than DM30m of its DM100m start-up capital has now been ploughed in, and there are plans to invest a further DM20-25m this year.

Mr Fanselow expects four or five of the 42 companies now in WFG's two funds to be floated on the stock market this autumn.

However, the shape of German venture capital has changed substantially on January 1 this year, when a new law came into force allowing banks to set up Unternehmensbeteiligungsgeellschaften, probably the least manageable word in the language.

The newcomers, usually affiliated to the big banks, are special entities subject to more complex rules, currently being set up by many banks to take equity participations in unquoted companies.

The rationale has again been to try to stimulate the build-up of "own capital," rather than bank credit, in private com-

panies and boost the stock market as a source of funds. As matters stand, equity makes up only about 18 per cent of the balance sheet of medium-sized German groups, and an average 25 per cent for large industrial corporations, against about 60 per cent in the US and even more in the UK.

Most of the big banks have now established UBGGs or are in the process of doing so. Apart from a pure motive, and the push from London, they have been attracted by the substantial tax breaks available.

Deutsche Bank is a neck ahead of the other banks in the field, as it already had a subsidiary investing in private companies. Some of its holdings have now been moved off into Deutsche Beteiligungs AG (DBAG), a US-style fund which is 92.5 per cent owned by the bank to take advantage of the new laws.

DBAG has a DM60m capital base, with DM47m invested in 13 companies so far. The remaining DM13m is being kept in cash for the time being, though likely to be used up by the end of the year, according to Mr Ralf Jakisch, one of its board members.

The requirement upon all UBGGs to float 40 per cent of their ordinary shares on the stock market within 10 years is likely to retain their tax advantages, undoubtedly influencing how they go about investing. The two key criteria for Mr Jakisch and his counterparts in other banks are high profitability and extremely low risk.

It may be called venture capital, but it is clear that none of

the banks getting into the business wants to be associated with a flop.

The pattern of investment at DBAG is similar to that planned by other UBGGs now being formed. Companies are introduced either through the parent bank's branch network or through a variety of third parties like investors, consultants and tax advisors. Some private companies have also made independent approaches.

DSAG, which acts as a silent partner and restricts itself to maximum 49 per cent shareholdings, has taken stakes of between DM500,000 and DM1m in companies so far.

Commerzbank is having to set up its new UBGG from scratch.

It is getting together with Hannover Finance, a subsidiary of the specialist insurance group for German industry in a venture in which both partners are investing DM 10m each.

Mr Dieter Firmenich, a director of the new company, hopes that, by committing between DM2m and 6m to individual private firms, the new venture will be able to build up to the requisite level for a stock market float within the next three to four years, depending on conditions on the bourse.

The UBGG has now shifted the spotlight to German banks, but they are by no means alone in the venture capital business. A number of smaller groups, which have tended to focus on the slightly riskier end of the business, are also active.

Techne Venture Management in Munich, is a well established name, with Siemens, the Matuschka financial group and US and UK venture capital specialists as its shareholders.

Munich is also home to the Portfolio Management (PM) group, it caused a stir a few years ago with a number of very stock market rotations. Not all prospered, and PM has subsequently shied away from new issues, though PM's Mr Bernd Ertl, a vociferous critic of the big banks' new issue monopoly, would like to get back in the business when circumstances allow.

Some foreign institutions are also testing the waters, though most are still at an early stage. From the UK, London and Continental Bankers has recently set up a German joint venture with Candover, a British venture capital specialist, under a former Citibank man. Investors in Industry (I) also has a Frankfurt office, while J. Henschel & Sons, Wiesbaden, has established a DM140m fund based in Hamburg to finance German management buyouts.

However, venture capital in Germany is not easy out for outsiders to crack, partly because it is so new. Even Citibank, the largest overseas bank in Germany, and one of the oldest established in the business, has found the going tough.

Hal Simonson

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## WEST GERMAN BANKING 5

## The Bundesbank

## A difficult balancing act

THE BUNDES BANK is the sentinel of West Germany's money. Its stern grey building is a forbidding sight on Frankfurt's northern outskirts just off the motorway. Inside sit the policy-makers, financial technicians, and officials, collectively charged with safeguarding the nation's currency.

This year the central bank is 30 years old in its present form. It was founded as a successor to the Bank Deutscher Länder, set up in 1948 to co-ordinate the activities of 11 Land (regional) banks.

Under the Bundesbank Act of 1957, its independence is clearly stated. While the bank is obliged to support the economic policy of whatever government is in power, this must not compromise the performance of its own duties. Thus it is detached from the Government in a way no some other central bankers can only envy.

Yet that is not as simple as it appears. Clearly, the Bonn cabinet must consult with the Bundesbank over economic and financial policy. And it does not expect its policies to be overruled by what it might see as unduly restrictive monetary action from Frankfurt.

So while the Bundesbank does not have to march hand in hand with the Government, it obviously has to take account of political realities. "The German central bank is in broad accord with the centre-right coalition of Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Neither the Bun-

desbank, whose president is Mr Karl Otto Poehl, nor the Government, notably in the person of Mr Gerhard Stolzenberg, Minister of Finance, want to indulge in economic pump-priming to satisfy foreign calls for more stimulus.

At present, though, the Bundesbank is in a dilemma.

Because of the high inflows of foreign currency into Germany this and last year, money supply has been allowed to expand at faster than the targeted rate. This has occurred at a time when pressure on prices has been downward—lower oil and commodity prices, and the D-mark's strength have cut import costs sharply.

That inflation has been kept at bay with prices actually falling last year for the first time since the 1950s.

But experts inside and outside the Bundesbank are well aware that letting central bank money stock move ahead faster than the target level—the recent 8 per cent rate compares with a 3 to 6 per cent target band—gives inflation a greater chance of revival. Inevitably, it is starting to creep up again, as the effects of last year's cheaper imports wear off. As Mr Helmut Schlesinger, vice president of the Bundesbank, warned recently: "The incubation period of inflationary processes is long, uncertainly long, and the size of the resulting price rises is also uncertain."

Retiring back money supply

too tightly, however, would lift interest rates, which would further brake an already lacklustre economy and also attract more money into the German currency. Thus Mr Schlesinger spoke of "the difficult balancing act" facing the Bundesbank. "A policy of over-plentiful money supply should not be continued without limit."

In view of its turbulent history this century and the personal and financial positions suffered by its citizens as Germany was waging war, or enduring an uneasy peace between wars, fears of inflation are not surprising. Combating inflation is fundamental to the existence of the Bundesbank.

Before the Bundesbank and its temporary post-war predecessor, the Reichsbank (established in 1876) was the German central bank. In 1923 the country experienced horrendous inflation which left deep financial, psychological, and political scars. The Weimar Government, from which high war reparations were being demanded, gave up trying to control the currency and check inflation.

Thus, incredibly, the mark collapsed from 20,000 to the dollar in January 1923, to 650,000m in November, when action was taken to restore the currency and the worthless Reichsmark was replaced by the Rentenmark. Prices had doubled every hour and people had to stop notes in wheelbarrows or prams for shopping trips.

Since the Reichsbank had no guarantee of independence, it was powerless to oppose the government and stop inflation. It won its independence in 1924, but only until Hitler snatched it away in the 1930s. After World War Two, the Reichsmark, which had been reinstated, was again worthless. The history of the post-war Bundesbank then began, with the Allies reforming the currency and setting up a central banking system.

Today, memories of 1923 are distant, but the fear of inflation remains deep-seated. The present Bonn administration is firmly in favour of financial orthodoxy, committed to reducing deficits, avoiding excessive spending, and creating a freer climate for business.

Thus the Bundesbank is broadly in accord with the policies followed in Bonn. But it has not always been so in recent years. Mr Poehl and his predecessors have had their differences with the Government. In Mr Poehl's case, this stemmed from the desire by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in the early 1980s for a more relaxed Bundesbank stance on money supply and interest rates. But the Bundesbank held firm.

Mr Poehl, a 57-year-old former journalist and state secretary at the Finance Ministry in Bonn, is well practised in the art of treading a careful course between Bundesbank integrity and political reality, both domestically and on the ever-

shifting international financial scene.

He is now set for a second term, which will give him a total of 16 years at the top of the central bank, more than any of his predecessors. Only one, Karl Blessing, has served longer than one eight-year term. Keen on golfing and skiing, Mr Poehl, a pragmatist with a good public

relations sense, exudes an easy, mostly good-humoured authority and is now one of the most experienced central bankers around.

Yet however well the president of the Bundesbank handles politicians, foreign banks, and economists, he still has his own organisation to deal with. The bank is a labyrinthine establish-

ment and the president has only one vote on a policy-making council which includes the seven full-time Bundesbank directors and the 11 Laender bank heads.

So what Mr Poehl or any other president thinks is not automatically translated into action. The job involves a lot of persuasion. A member of the Social

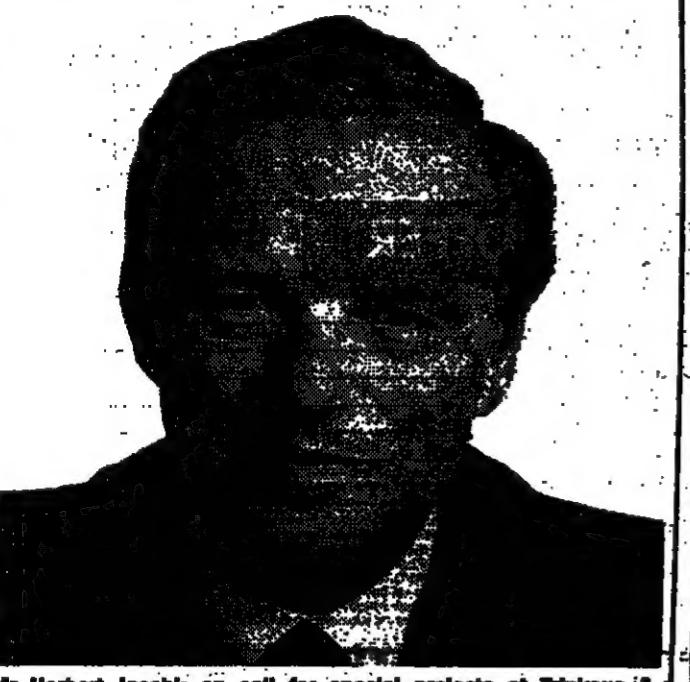
Democratic Party, now in opposition, Mr Poehl has had no difficulty working with the present right-inclined Government. And so far, he has also managed to fit in with the more conservatively— or domestically-oriented members of his own council.

Andrew Fisher



Mr Karl Otto Poehl, who presides over the Bundesbank, is set for a second term

Terry Ains



Mr Herbert Jacobi: on call for special projects at Trinkaus & Burkhardt.

#### Profile: Herbert Jacobi

## The builder in banking

TALL, BRONZED and immensely affable, Mr Herbert (Herb) Jacobi, senior managing partner at Trinkaus & Burkhardt in Dusseldorf, is every inch the urbane international banker.

Even the occasional sceptics who find that hard to believe are usually dumbfounded when they meet him face to face. After years in banking on both sides of the Atlantic, Mr Jacobi, aged 52, a native American who is half German, has good reason to be heard.

Trinkaus, majority-owned by Midland Bank of the UK, has thrived during the six years he has been at the helm.

To bring a greater sense of direction to the bank, which had had a somewhat traumatic decade after the merger in 1972 of Trinkaus Bank of Dusseldorf and Bankhaus Burkhardt of Essen, was Mr Jacobi's top priority when he took over in 1981.

The merger was followed by a period under Citibank, which took 50 per cent of the bank then Midland, which bought Citibank in 1980 and went on to purchase a further 20 per cent stake from Banque Indosuez of France.

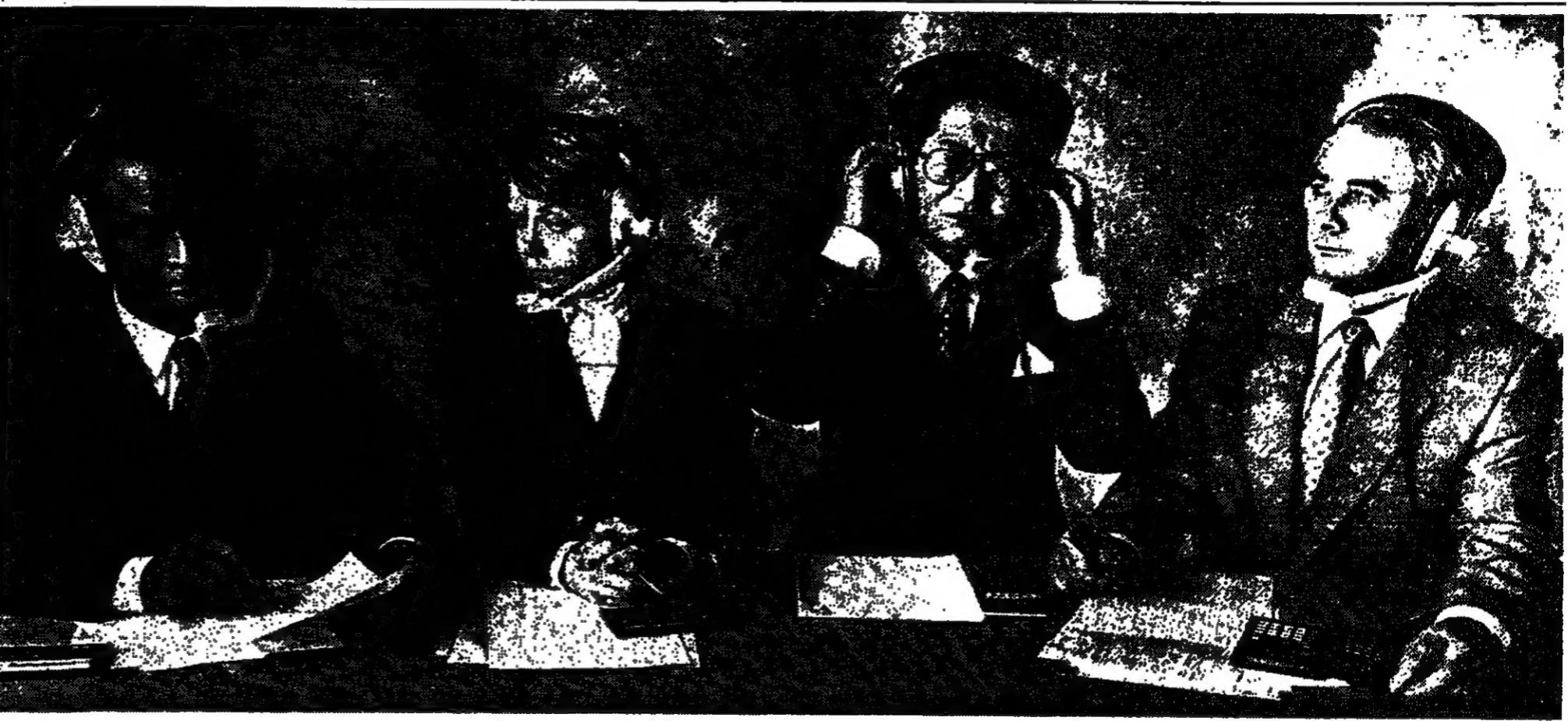
In 1985, Trinkaus changed its legal status, and in October that year it floated almost 23 per cent of its equity as planned in a public issue, leaving Midland with 70 per cent of the shares.

"The strategy was to maintain Trinkaus's franchise as a German private bank," says Mr Jacobi, "and not to create the impression of a de facto branch of Midland."

However, when Midland took over, Trinkaus was a bank with great tradition, customers and people, but with no direction and no specific objectives set. It was just a universal bank like all the others."

Analysis showed that four areas needed attention. Security, which had been "allowed to atrophy" during the Citibank era, when commercial lending was the name of the game, was gradually rebuilt.

And commercial banking business, which "had grown without direction," was smartened up, with new faces and "a concentration in a bouquet of products," including foreign exchange, international payments and documentary business and export finance. Meanwhile, new ideas like liquidity management and electronic



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Hal Simonian



## WEST GERMAN BANKING 7

## Macro-economics

## Storm clouds on the horizon

THE PROBLEMS facing Mr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Finance Minister, represent living proof of the way the negative effects on the world economy of last year's sharp decline in the dollar and in oil prices have generally outweighed the positive ones.

Although inflation in the Federal Republic has been more or less vanquished, economic growth this year is likely to be no more than 1.5 per cent, adding up to a significant slowdown after four years of steady, if unspectacular, recovery from the 1981-82 recession.

Domestic demand, which was heavily buoyed by the impetus given to consumers by last year's spectacular cheapening of imports, especially oil, is still holding up well and likely to rise by around 3 per cent this year.

But the business climate has been highly cautious since last autumn, with the latest IFO investment intentions report, for instance, revealing a marked slowdown in industry's capital spending plans.

Both the Government and the Bundesbank are still broadcasting confidence that the economic stagnation between October and March, attended by unusually severe winter weather which hit the construction sector particularly hard, has now been overcome.

One source of both expansionary impetus and also worries about future inflation is the well above-target increase of the money supply over the last 18 months.

But an economy in which exports make up one-third of gross national product is paying the inevitable tribute to the external fluctuations—above all, exchange rate adjustments—which only a year ago represented a reason for more optimism about the world economy.

The economic forecasters miscalculated at the beginning of 1986, over prospects both internationally and for the West German economy.

A significant reason appears to have been a substantial under-estimate of the shock to export-dependent countries like West Germany of exchange rate-induced deterioration in competitiveness, together with the squeeze on Third World and Opec markets resulting from the oil price fall and aggravated debt crisis.

This goes a long way towards explaining why unemployment is still stuck at some way above 2m, seems if anything likely to rise over the next year or so. West Germany will probably have to wait for the 1990s and the effects of its demographic decline to see any lasting drop in the jobless rate.

As a method both of improving the domestic growth outlook and of contributing to an amelioration of massive international payments imbalances, Mr Stoltenberg has been mandated by the centre-right coalition to push through a potentially ambitious tax cut package planned to come into effect in 1989.

The plan has run into criticism from abroad on the grounds that it represents too tardy an effort to give the economy a fiscal stimulus.

But, at home, the proposals have faced strong protests during the past few weeks from regional political barons within Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

They say it will lead to irresponsible cuts in the revenues of the state (Land) governments and pile up potentially de-

External sector statistics						
	Exports Value (\$ bn)	Volume (% change)	Imports Value (\$ bn)	Volume (% change)	Trade Balance (\$ bn)	Current Account Balance (as % of GDP)
1981	176	6.6	164	5.0	17.0	-0.8
1982	176	3.3	153	2.3	25.0	0.6
1983	169	-0.3	153	4.0	22.0	4.0
1984	172	9.2	153	5.2	19.0	1.1
1985	184	5.9	158	4.2	25.0	13.0
1986	242	1.4	191	6.3	57.0	36.0
1987*	285	0.0	230	4.0	55.0	31.1

\*—Forecasts

Source: ABECOR

Domestic economy				
GDP (real)	Industrial Production	Consumer Prices	Unemployment Rate	3 Month Interest Rate
% changes year on year				annual averages in %
1981	0.0	-2.0	6.3	5.5
1982	-1.0	-3.2	5.3	7.5
1983	1.5	0.5	3.3	9.1
1984	3.0	3.4	2.4	9.1
1985	2.5	4.5	2.2	9.3
1986	2.4	2.2	-0.2	9.0
1987*	1.0-2.0	0.0	1.0	4.0

\*Forecast

Source: ABECOR

Stagnating budget deficits for the years ahead.

Mr Stoltenberg anyway faces a tough autumn of political infighting over unpopular plans to trim subsidies, needed to be cut to help finance the 1989 tax cuts.

There is a good deal of evidence, including the arguments marshalled by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), that the Federal Republic could afford a period of gradually growing public sector deficit.

As the BIS pointed out last month (June), one of the reasons for the sort of budgetary consolidation over which Mr Stoltenberg has been presiding during the last four years was to give fiscal policy a sharper cutting edge when it was actually required.

However, unless it is checked, the tide of opposition to Mr Stoltenberg's package could spell the programme's political death-knell and herald a larger threat.

Not only would an abandonment of the budget rules represent a considerable setback for efforts to put West Germany on the domestic demand-led growth path of around 2.5 per cent a year which is the minimum needed to bring down unemployment in the next few years.

Additionally, any flagging of West German expansion, implying persistence of a current account surplus at around the level of last year's record \$30bn, could increase the likelihood of further unrest on the foreign exchange markets.

However, the real picture is more complicated. A fresh rise in the D-Mark might not only fail to produce the hoped-for corrections in either the US or German current accounts.

The celebrated J-curve effect (under which the trade balance of a country actually improves in nominal terms over the short



Mr Gerhard Stoltenberg, Finance Minister: broadcasting confidence that the economic stagnation has now been overcome

run, and vice versa for the depreciating nation, because of the effect on import prices of currency changes) have after all already been in enough evidence during the past two years.

Additionally, as Mr Karl Otto Poehl at the Bundesbank has pointed out, a further exchange rate shock for German industry, given the country's export dependence, could spill over into disrupting domestically-generated growth as well as damaging the major under which the Federal Republic up to now has been sucking in imports.

Following through this argument to its logical conclusion, the effect of exchange rate adjustment would then be totally counter-productive. Growth, exports and imports would be lower than they would otherwise have been—leaving the country's external surplus roughly unchanged.

Faced with the barrage of contradictory argument and evidence about West German economic policy and the unmistakable storm clouds on the horizon, both Mr Kohl and Mr Stoltenberg in recent weeks have been clinging to their line. They have firmly rejected both any short term stimulatory action and also any delay in the 1989 tax package.

What the Government has, however, not been saying is that its policy adds up in a sense to batten down the hatches and hoping, somehow, for fortuitous deliverance from the fresh external shocks which are all too plainly programmed for the next year or so.

Additionally, any flagging of West German expansion, implying persistence of a current account surplus at around the level of last year's record \$30bn, could increase the likelihood of further unrest on the foreign exchange markets.

David Marsh

## Key figures of top four banks in 1986

Bank	Total Assets	All figures on group basis—D-marks			
		Partial Operating Profit	Interest Income	Commission Income	Dividend
Deutsche Bank	257bn	3.6bn	6.9bn	1.8bn	*12
Dresdner Bank	197bn	1.8bn	4.0bn	1.5bn	*10
Westdeutsche Landesbank	149bn	1.0bn	1.8bn	281m	4 per cent
Commerzbank	148bn	1.1bn	2.7bn	957m	9

\*Plus special DM 5 bonus following Flick flotation

†Plus one for 18 scrip issue

## Currency black market

## Good times for funny money men

THE "BLACK MARKET" for non-convertible East European currencies in West Berlin is one of the odder Forex markets actually in existence. Far smaller than a few brightly lit exchange bureaux buying and selling everything from East German marks to Soviet roubles at bargain basement rates.

The currencies are bought at a depressed rate, mainly from East Europeans, and sold mainly to westerners. The unofficial rates reflect those prevailing in the capitals of Eastern Europe where "funny money" men in hotel lobbies and hallways offer local currencies at several times the official rate.

Traditionally East European currencies were brought to the West sewn in coat linings or inside shoes and socks of East European visitors. Sometimes they were bundles of freshly printed bank notes thrown on to the counter of the exchange bureau by emissaries of East European countries, the coffers of which are chronically bare of hard currency.

Taking East European currencies to the West is still illegal but much less tightly enforced in most of the countries than in the past.

The exchange bureaux specialising in eastern money—also traded in Vienna and Zurich—are conveniently located near West Berlin's main Zoo railway station. They strongly object to being associated with the black market, pointing out that their trade is entirely legal in the West.

One of them in fact, the Deutsche Verkehrs-Kredit-

to improve their meagre earnings by taking orders from other East Germans for Western merchandise. Increasingly younger East Germans are being permitted to visit the West where they exchange their hard-earned marks into D-marks.

The Eastern marks are largely bought by West Berliners and West Germans, who subsequently visit relatives and friends in East Germany where the cut-rate currency is invested in champagne and other small luxuries.

It is no coincidence that the five to one unofficial exchange rate for the eastern mark reflects the price of better made West German goods which the West often sells at one-fifth of their price in East Germany. That an East German camera selling for DM 400 in West Berlin costs nearly marks 2,000 in East Berlin.

Earlier this year the mark plummeted in West Berlin to more than eight marks for one D-mark. The exchange bureaux, however, would offer no explanation for the abrupt fall other than to note that a relatively small amount of eastern currency offered for sale could sharply influence the exchange rate.

One bureau manager suggested that speculators might have entered the market. Another noted that even an anonymous phone caller inquiring about an exchange rate and offering to sell a considerable amount of eastern currency could have a strong impact on the rate.

Among the sellers of Soviet roubles are African students from Moscow who take back video recorders for re-sale in the Soviet Union.

East Germans selling their marks in the West are no longer mainly retired citizens seeking

2,000 black invitations. The Yugoslav authorities described the hordes of Poles travelling to Yugoslavia for several months at a time, commuting between Istanbul, where they buy cheap goods, and Yugoslavia, where they sell them for convertible Yugoslav dinars. These they take back to Poland and convert them into Polish zlotys at a black market rate.

Warsaw Radio noted last month that in this way Polish tourists "effectively compete with our official foreign trade—over third markets."

In Poland itself, the currency black market is located wherever someone needs hard currency. An official Polish consumer publication called Veto regularly publishes the going rate for dollar coupons used in hard currency shops, which in effect is the black market rate for the Polish zloty.

Although there are about 100 full-time black market currency dealers in Warsaw—most of them pounding the pavements but some in hotels and restaurants—tens of thousands of ordinary Poles exchange zlotys into dollars. Some Warsaw taxi drivers refuse to drive foreigners except for dollars and waiters frequently ask Western hotel guests while presenting the bill whether the wish to exchange dollars into zlotys at the unofficial rate.

Only Hungary has managed to keep the official rate of its currency close to the black market rate, until now at least. The result is that "funny money" men are rare in Hungary.

Leslie Collitt

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## WEST GERMAN BANKING 8

## Links with industry

## Strange mixture of a curse and a blessing

BANKS IN West Germany have strong links with industry, both directly and indirectly, but it is a fact of life that not everyone agrees with this. The banks themselves often have second thoughts these days about the wisdom of being close to companies, especially when these land in trouble.

The country's top six commercial banks own chunks of industry worth some DM 17.6b (\$9.5bn). Heading the list is the mighty Deutsche Bank with holdings worth nearly DM 12.5bn according to figures published by Citibank AG early this year.

Among its interests is a 28 per cent stake in Daimler-Benz, the motor group which has added electronics, aerospace, and engine activities in the past few years through acquisitions.

Next come Dresdner Bank and Commerzbank, with holdings worth just under DM 2bn (the calculations were made in February). BHF-Bank, more of a merchant bank in character, has almost DM 400m, while two Bavarian banks, Bayerische Hypotheken und Wechselbank and Bayerische Vereinsbank, have DM 440m and DM 24m respectively.

The ties between banks and companies have been looked at much more closely in recent years. New laws to loosen them have been suggested. Outside Germany, notably in the UK, there is much admiration for the way in which German banks support industry.

Within the country, however, the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) have called for curbs on the banks' power in industry, while the Free Democrats (FDP), the junior partner in the ruling coalition, have also suggested some form of limitation.

For their part, banks emphasise that industrial holdings can be a curse as well as a blessing. AEG, the big electrical and electronics company which ran into serious trouble in the 1970s, is a good example of the first. Five years ago, more than 20 banks took up around half of AEG's shares as part of a rescue package after it had made heavy losses. Today, the company is back in profit and controlled by Daimler.

Hapag-Lloyd, the shipping, aviation and travel group, also gave the banks some headaches in the early 1980s. But now that it is earning money again and no longer in need of intensive financial care, Deutsche and Dresdner have been reducing their stakes by selling share packages to a variety of interested companies.

Aside from their direct shareholdings, banks exert an influence on companies in other important ways, too. Bank directors sit on the supervisory boards of German companies, along with labour representatives and other non-executives. Supervisory boards appoint senior management and approve big investment decisions.

Banks can also play another indirect role, when necessary. Investors who have bought shares through the banks, which are also the country's stockholders, are dependent on the bank branch and receive dividends through their accounts. So when companies hold annual meetings, it is the banks which do the voting on the small shareholders' behalf.

Normally, this causes no ripples. But the recent annual meeting of Volkswagen highlighted both the supervisory role and the voting rights aspect of the banks. The reason was the foreign exchange fraud which cost VW up to DM 472m.

Shareholders had to vote routinely on whether or not to approve the actions of the supervisory and management boards last year. So banks had to decide how to advise their clients.

Banks traditionally vote in favour of the management, but the decision was not so easy with a company which had been hit so hard by fraud. The question was whether the management had been negligent or not.

In the event, an independent report, out ahead of the annual general meeting, cleared most of the management and the supervisory board of any responsibility.

But the banks had reserved judgment on what recommendation to make, before they knew

of the report's contents. The Deutsche Bank had opted for abstention if the report did not clear the board. Commerzbank said shareholders should vote for the board, unless the report showed otherwise, and Dresdner said they should wait for the report and then decide.

According to the association, the number of stakes of more than 10 per cent held by the top ten banks is comparable with nominal share capital above DM 1m had fallen from 129 to 86 in the past 10 years. Most of this fall had been in holdings which totalled over 25 per cent in the 1970s.

Backing up the Monopolies Commission's critical view, the Academic Advisory Council said the present systems raised the sticky question of conflicts of interest. The banks' status as lenders to companies in which they own shares, the council said, provided them with a clear information advantage in the stock market.

This is certainly true. The question is how they use it. Insider trading is not a major issue on the German financial scene, and hardly any cases have emerged recently. But there have been calls to tighten up the self-regulatory system which the banks are keen to preserve in preference to legal sanctions. It is another example of the resentment felt by many observers, expert or not, at the power of the big banks.

The banks, as might be expected, jibbed at this. The German Banking Association has told the Economics Ministry in writing, though, that its members have been reducing their industrial holdings and that the commission's recommendation was thus misguided.

The report and then decide.

Andrew Fisher

West Germany's 20 largest companies				
(US\$bn)	Market Capitalisation	Percentage of Total	Price/Earnings Ratio	Yield %
Daimler-Benz (Automotive)	22.623	10.9%	17.4	0.6%
Allianz (Insurance)	15.057	6.6	69.0	0.4
Siemens (Electrical, Electronics)	14.617	6.4	12.3	0.6
Deutsche Bank AG	12.807	5.5	18.8	0.4
Münchener Rückversicherung (Reinsurance)	8.898	3.9	150.2	0.3
Bayer (Chemical, Pharmaceuticals)	8.251	3.6	82	0.3
BASF (Chemical, Oil and Gas)	7.328	3.2	10.9	0.2
Hoesch (Chemical, Pharmaceuticals)	6.115	2.8	8.4	0.2
Volkswagen (Automotive)	6.026	3.0	9.1	0.2
Veba (Utilities, Chemicals)	6.029	2.6	13.4	0.0
<b>Total (Ten Largest)</b>	<b>108.740</b>	<b>47.8</b>		
RWE (Utility)	5.442	2.4	14.6	0.0
Dresdner Bank AG	5.388	2.3	13.8	0.1
Bayerische Hypo-Bank (Commercial and Mortgage Banking)	3.753	1.6	16.5	0.6
Commerzbank AG	3.902	1.4	34.7	0.2
BMW (Automotive)	3.170	1.4	6.9	0.1
Mannesmann (Steel, Machinery, Electronics)	3.114	1.4	12.9	0.4
Bayerische Vereinsbank (Commercial Banking)	3.004	1.3	15.7	0.6
Nicofor Computer (Data Processing Equipment)	2.702	1.2	26.5	0.6
Thyssen (Steel)	2.548	1.1	10.6	0.8
Lufthansa (Airline)	2.139	1.0	18.5	0.8
<b>Total (20 Largest)</b>	<b>344.383</b>	<b>83.0</b>		

\*Based on estimated 1985 earnings. <sup>1</sup>Net before withholding tax: excludes West German dividends-received credit. <sup>2</sup>As of April 25, 1986.

Source: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Analysenberatung mbH (DEGAB), an independent research affiliate of Deutsche

## Activities abroad

## Luxembourg operations face tougher climate

## At the heart of Germany's financial capital: Helaba Frankfurt



You'll find Helaba Frankfurt in major financial centers.

Helaba Frankfurt in brief. A solid banking partner.

Helaba Frankfurt is a government-backed universal bank ranking among Germany's foremost financial institutions with total assets of DM 69 billion.

It offers a broad range of commercial and investment banking facilities as well as brokerage and investment advisory services.

Concentrating on wholesale banking, especially in the medium to long-term sector, Helaba Frankfurt tailors its comprehensive services for large corporations, central banks, government entities, and other financial institutions. Moreover, it acts as banker to the State of Hesse.

Funding is facilitated through issuing its own bearer bonds and SD Certificates (Schuldscheindarlehen). The total outstanding is some DM 31 billion.

Helaba Frankfurt is also at home in key international markets, operating for example full service branches in London and New York as well as a Luxembourg subsidiary specializing in Euromarket transactions and private banking.

**Helaba Frankfurt**  
Hessische Landesbank-Girozentrale

trading operations by hiring more staff, or by shifting to larger premises.

One of the key questions they are probably asking is whether they should start to trade West German shares in the City. The London stock exchange has long been seen as a world centre for international securities trading, and there is already a very lively secondary market for German shares in the square mile.

One incentive to go ahead is the fact that secondary market trading of securities in Germany itself continues to be handicapped by the Boersenamtssatzierung—the stock exchange turnover tax. Its abolition has now been pushed aside by other fiscal priorities, although the Government says the idea is still on the table.

Those subsidiaries thrived in the heyday of the Eurocredit loan participation business, and every West German bank worth its salt, commercial, private and public sector alike, was represented in the Grand Duchy.

Most are still there today. But the continuing downturn in the international syndicated loan sector has led many to re-think their Luxembourg operations.

Funding loans and booking fresh-money contributions in syndicating agreements still keeps many busy, but most Luxembourg subsidiaries are trying to find new areas of endeavour.

Dresdner Bank, Bayerische Vereinsbank and, earlier this year, Deutsche Bank, have decided to take up some slack by using Luxembourg to develop their private client business, notably for wealthy Germans just across the border.

Perhaps seeing the writing on the wall, the Luxembourg banking authorities have helped by creating a highly favourable regulatory climate to foster bank secrecy.

Luxembourg's investment banking loss has largely been London's gain. The rapid growth of a market for a variety of tradable Euro-currency debt instruments in the City has prompted many West German banks to step up their activities there.

Deutsche Bank set the pace in April 1985, when it created a full-scale capital markets subsidiary to issue and trade all but D-Mark-denominated Euro-instruments.

In April, BHF-Bank decided to follow. The bank is establishing a capital markets division specialising in West German equity research and trading, which should be up and running next month.

In the meantime, many other West German banks are expanding their London Eurobond

bank has 10 branches and foreign subsidiaries and 14 representative offices.

However, the figures are deceptive in two cases. Both Dresdner Bank and now Deutsche Bank have wholly-owned foreign banking operations, both based in Hamburg, which concentrate on special areas of the globe.

Deutsche-Suedamerikanische Bank, the Dresden subsidiary, has a long-established role in Latin America through a substantial local branch network.

Most recently Deutsche Bank has announced it is to incorporate Deutsche Bank (Asia), formerly European Asia Bank, which used to be part of the ERIC banking partnership and has branches in 13 Far Eastern countries, from Pakistan to Korea.

Deutsche Bank finally gained full control at the end of April when it bought out Creditanstalt-Bankverein of Austria, the only other shareholder in the former consortium bank, having raised its stake from 60 per cent to 75 per cent in May 1986.

The plan now is for Deutsche Bank (Asia) to become part of the Deutsche Bank network. Its name and Hamburg headquarters will, in time, disappear, while many functions will be devolved to a new regional office in Singapore or to group headquarters in Frankfurt.

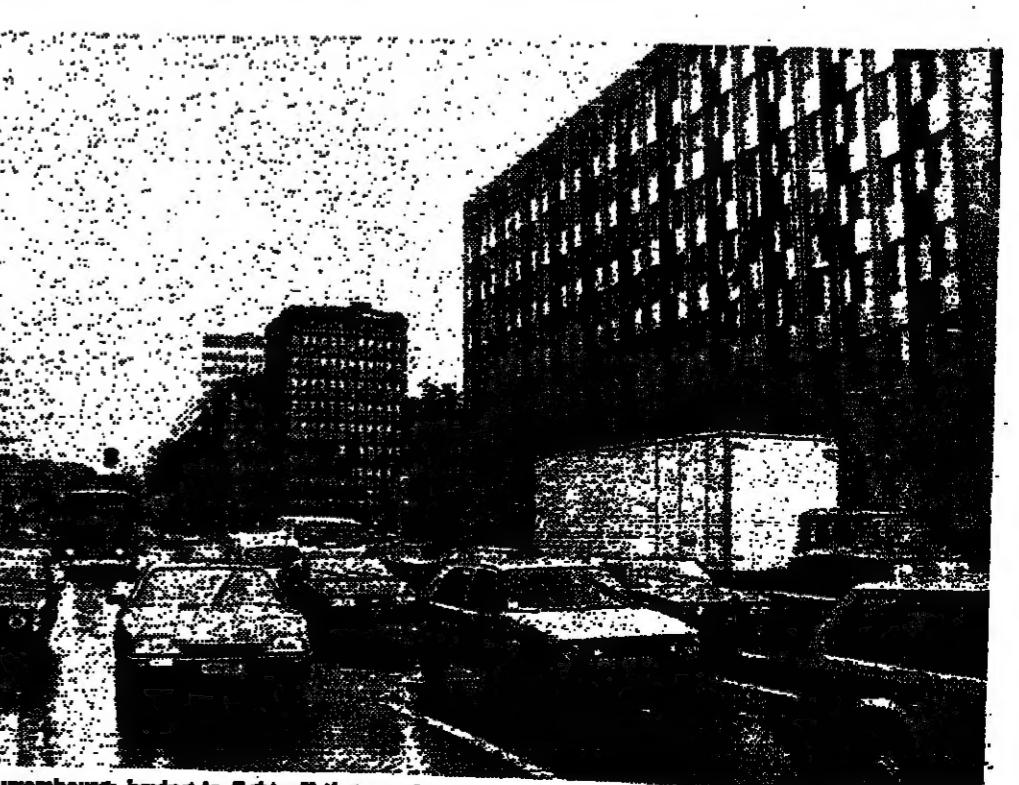
But gaining control of Deutsche Bank (Asia) has been small beer compared with Deutsche Bank's purchase, finalised last December, of Banca America e d'Italia, the 66-branch Italian retail operation previously owned by Bank of America.

The deal cost Deutsche Bank \$603m, and gives it the largest foreign-owned retail banking presence in Italy. Hardly pin money, but West Germany's wealthiest bank did not have to dig too deep into its pocket.

Word is that expansion in France, and possibly in Spain, may now be on the cards.

Meanwhile, further international developments may also be likely among West Germany's Landesbanken, which are normally owned by local savings and communal associations and state governments. Westdeutsche Landesbank (WestLB), the largest, and the third biggest bank in Germany, has already made a determined push into international investment banking and may be thinking about going further.

Halb Simonian



Luxembourg: having to fight off the growing banking power of the City of London.